The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

Hamburg, 29 June 1972
Eleventh Year - No. 533 - By air

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Signs indicate Vietnam war is coming to a close

Starting a war is easier than ending one. It is rumoured in Paris that a resumption of the so-called Vietnam peace talks is in the offing but both sides are studiously avoiding forecasts.

The American delegation makes no bones about the fact that it is only prepared to take part in negotiations of substance, but William Porter, the chief US delegate, has made it clear in the intricate terms of diplomatic parlance that the United States would like to return to the conference table. Of late the North Vietnamese have also engaged in verbal shadow-boxing of this kind.

Contacts have never been broken off altogether, for that matter. The exchange of views on Vietnam has continued. The subject was discussed by President Nixon and General Secretary Brezhnev and the other side will know the lines along which their talks progressed.

Soviet President Podgorny in Hanoi and US Presidential adviser Kissinger in Peking will not have been able to ignore the war either. Once progress has been made behind the scenes public sessions will be resumed.

This is not to dismiss the Paris talks as of minor importance. In the meantime they have assumed a significance of their own. They reflect the climate of opinion and the readiness to negotiate of the adversaries.

They are as important as a means of shaping and influencing public opinion in the United States as they are as a propaganda forum for North Vietnam.

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The negotiators have, of course, often engaged in mere verbiage but neither side would like to abandon the talks altogether.

What is more, the time would appear to be ripe for a frank exchange of views. The United States is in a far better position than was the case in April or May. The situation in Vietnam has been strategically safeguarded and North Vietnam has sustained serious losses in terms of bloodshed.

General Giap's initial military successes pale in significance in view of America's massive and effective aerial retaliation.

Yet politically Hanoi has come far closer to its target. Pacification of South Vietnam has been brought to a standstill by the offensive and may well be doomed to failure.

The Vietcong has settled in again in a considerable number of provinces and Saigon's military reserves have been exhausted. North Vietnamese can now engage in political manoeuvres along South Vietnam's long and wide-open western flank without needing to take military decisions.

Thus there are many indications that an end to the fighting between America and North Vietnam is in sight. Future developments could, of course, take an entirely different turn. If Hué were to fall, for instance, a political rapprochement would be rendered far more difficult.

But neither the United States nor North Vietnam is strategically interested in prolonging a war they would both have to wage to the utmost.

The North Vietnamese will, however, have to decide whether they still insist on the basic tenet of their peace perspective, the ousting of General Thieu in Saigon.

Despite military setbacks Thieu is the man who in political terms is most stiffly resisting a Communist take-over in Saigon. Were it not for Thieu and his supporters South Vietnam would swiftly collapse.

Hanoi blandly claims that President Thieu does not represent South Vietnam (as though the Red leaders of North Vietnam were representative of the political will of the North Vietnamese!)

This claim in reality bears witness to Communist anxiety lest South Vietnam in the event of a peace treaty regain the political stability it had achieved prior to the offensive.

North Vietnam cannot insist that President Nixon jettison General Thieu. The US proposal for fresh elections in Saigon has already overstepped the mark of what is morally permissible among allies.



European champions

Gerd Müller, the goal-scoring wizard of the West German national eleven, with the European championship cup that he and his team won at the Heysel stadium Brussels. They beat the Russians 3-0, Müller scoring two of the goals. (Photo: Horstmüller)

All things considered Washington cannot seriously countenance Communist plans for a coalition government in Saigon prior to or after an American withdrawal either. The Communists would immediately set about systematically undermining the government, being a compact group.

What America might approve, however, is an armistice agreement freezing the current military and political situation. This would amount to the Communists retaining control in those areas of South Vietnam at present held by North Vietnam and the Vietcong. It now looks as though Hanoi were aiming at this political target.

A solution of this kind would lead to the creation of three Vietnams and, since Indo-China represents one strategic unit, of two Laotian States and several Cambodias too.

This summer might, then, mark the end of the war between North Vietnam and the United States but warfare between the various forces active in Indo-China would continue.

Supranational guarantees of existing frontiers are not going to stop the North Vietnamese from pressing ahead with their aggressive policies at a favourable juncture. Nor is the presence of the US air force in Thailand.

South Vietnam will not collapse like a house of cards, though. Part of the South Vietnamese army Roman Catholic groups, lesser denominations and minorities would continue to resist a take-over by the North.

Prince Sihanouk has forecast that there will be a third Indo-Chinese war. Despite the current rumours of peace his assessment seems lamentably likely to prove accurate.

Adelbert Weinstein

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 19 June 1972)

Pollution problems mark time after Stockholm conference

For twelve days Stockholm was dominated by the UN conference on the environment. The Swedes ploughed a considerable amount of money into their role as the host country. Has the investment proved worthwhile?

Bearing in mind that the United Nations does not even possess the power to enforce General Assembly resolutions scepticism regarding the prospects of recommendations made by a special conference would appear to be justified, particularly in view of the absence from the conference of the Soviet Union, a world power, and a number of Eastern Bloc states.

China's attempt to resuscitate the old contradiction between industrialised and developing countries nearly wrecked the conference's chances altogether. In the absence of the Soviet Union Peking took upon itself the role of the developing countries' advocate and adopted the facile approach that environmental pollution was a consequence of imperialism, monopoly capitalism and colonialism.

The Chinese, who continually emphasised their need to make good their nuclear backlog, eventually consented to approval by acclamation of a declaration of principle, but only after a number of compromises had been reached.

The demand for an immediate ban on nuclear tests was reduced to a meaningless declaration and it was expressly agreed that the UN General Assembly in New York be made acquainted with the reservations and comments of individual countries on the 26 points of the declaration.

Environmental protection is one of the topics the General Assembly is to debate this autumn. It will also be discussed at a number of regional conferences in order to combat pollution more swiftly in individual continents and parts of the world.

The pollution of our planet will meanwhile continue. Country areas are no longer safe from the gases hailing from industrial regions. Bathing in lakes and rivers will soon be impossible. Fish reserves are steadily being depleted.

If there can be said to have been a successful outcome to the Stockholm conference, which was attended by 110 countries, then it is not the declaration of principle so tortuously arrived at or, for that matter, the various specific decisions taken.

The only success there can be said to have been is that people have been shocked by the passionate official and sidelines debate into doing something about environmental pollution.

But as long as a number of countries continue for prestige reasons to consider the recommendations to be most useful but leave it to others to start the ball rolling vital progress will surely not be achieved.

Siegfried Löffler

(Kieler Nachrichten, 19 June 1972)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Prague shows signs of wanting to come to terms with Bonn

Statements by Czech Party leader Gustav Husak indicate for the first time that Prague is seriously interested in coming to terms with this country. The latest round of talks, scheduled for late June, might thus be to some avail.

General Secretary Husak did not, for once, stipulate that the 1938 Munich Agreement must be declared to have been null and void from the word go.

At a trades union congress in Prague he merely stated, in pragmatically-sounding terms, that Czechoslovakia cannot simply ignore the issue and that a solution acceptable to both sides must be found.

He talked in terms of good-neighbourly relations and a frontier of peace along Czechoslovakia's Western border. The weekend beforehand General Secretary Brezhnev and President Tito had called, in their Moscow communiqué, for the Munich Agreement to be declared null and void from the moment pen was put to paper.

This demand for nullity and invalidity from the word go is a burden Czechoslovakia unnecessarily took upon itself in the days when Czech officials under ex-President Novotny were afraid that this country might make life awkward for them by offering to establish normal relations.

It then came to be a matter of prestige from which there was no climbing down apart from a short-lived gleam of hope during the Party leadership of Alexander Dubcek.

The Stalinists who then came to the helm and even the otherwise realistic Husak were either unable or unwilling to forfeit prestige in a matter of national importance (although, let it be added, they made short shrift of Czech sovereignty in other respects).

There was not the slightest occasion for this country to go anywhere near meeting this maximum demand on Czechoslovakia's part, it being absurd in the context of international law.

The powers that be in Prague had to pay the price for their inflexibility. They remainded excluded from the entire process of normalisation Bonn's *Ostpolitik* entailed, the Soviet Union caring neither one way nor the other whether relations between Bonn and Prague, scheduled for improvement by the terms of the Moscow Treatry, made the slightest progress.

To this day the powers that be in Prague have little alternative but either to continue to forgo a return to normal in relations with Bonn or to accept one or other of the formulas put forward by this country, *all of which amount to the* Munich Agreement being invalid and having been unjust from the word go.

To this must be added a treaty clarifying once and for all the legal position of the former Sudeten Germans. Being realistic, Prague is hardly likely to want to insist on reparations.

So far the Prague leadership has attached next to no importance to international prestige. Kafka the novelist is considered to be the No. 1 enemy of the State. Violations of the Austrian border are the order of the day. Imperialists are roundly condemned left, right and centre. The best Czech theatres are closed down. Prague is even afraid lest the country's ice hockey team lose a game.

At the very least this country was not directly accused of having engineered the recent hijacking of a plane that was forced to land at Weiden.

Rude Pravo, the Party daily, this time talked solely in terms of aiding and abetting and Party leader Husak had to admit that sons and daughters of leading Party members were among the hijackers.

Should this latest trend prove lasting (and past moves of this kind have turned out to be false alarms) the turning-point will have been the ratification of Bonn's treaties with Moscow and Warsaw. Czechoslovakia can no longer afford to cliffhang. *Viktor Meier*

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 14 June 1972)

West needs to tread carefully the path to a security conference

The Soviet Union will have its security conference. After years of Soviet hustling Nato too has begun to ring the changes of the conference on security and cooperation in Europe.

It remains to be seen, however, how much emphasis will be left on the security aspect. The East has increasingly switched the emphasis of the agenda from military to general political topics.

Nato, on the other hand, remains what it has always been: a defence alliance. The dual function to which such importance has been attached of late can only mean that security is still its mainstay and detente its complementary approach.

The formula on which agreement was reached at the Bonn conference of Nato Foreign Ministers was, indeed, that detente and defence are inseparable.

The Bonn Federal govenment was accordingly sorely disappointed when the link between the security conference and the MBFR talks grews increasingly tenuous, only a vague declaration of intent remaining.

In accordance with the outcome of the Moscow summit between President Nixon and General Secretary Brezhnev the fifteen Nato Foreign Ministers in Bonn agreed to the troop cut talks being pursued parallel to and to all intents and purposes separately from the security conference.

While the current government in Bonn would like to see a mutual balanced force reduction as the hub of the security conference France, for instance, has never been all that enthusiastic about the MBFR idea.

France's misgivings are shared by Britain, the United States adopting a middle-of-the-road stand. Secretary of State Rogers reckoned to have gained the impression in Moscow that the Soviet Union proposes to debate mutual balanced force reduction separately among the smaller group of "countries concerned."

To judge by the failure of Nato Secretary-General Manlio Brosio's mis- the Kremlin is rigorously opposed exploratory talks between the blocs.

Nato is thus treading carefully, voic- reservations and applying pressure on t- brakes on its way towards the m- 35-country conference.

Preparatory talks prior to the c- ference are to be held between countries interested at the level of sti- diplomatic officials accredited in H- sinki. In view of the US Presid- elections on 7 November they ar- likely to get under way befor- autumn however.

The conference itself will not be c- vened before next year in any case, which time Nato will have had opportunity of arriving at an approa- common to all its fifteen member-cou- tries. Optimism may be the prevaili- tenor of opinion at present but it is far from certain that the conference will take place.

The whole undertaking is fraught w- risk from the West's point of view. O- and above the topic of cooperati- Moscow aims with the aid of the c- ference to gain full international recog- tion on a wide scale of the territori- has annexed as far as the Elbe. This course, will be in addition to the trea- with Bonn.

Nato is not prepared to allow security conference to be transfor- into an *ersatz* peace conference, thus and the communiqué issued at the e- the Bonn conference of Nato For- Ministers echoed the substance of the May Bundestag declaration *in conju-* tion with ratification of the Easte- treaties.

Contrary to Moscow's endeavour to demote the Moscow and Warsaw treatie- to the level of frontier recognition agre- ments the Germans' right to freedom and self-determination is to be reiterated within an international framework ov- and above Bonn's own declarations.

Peace rhetoric and peace policy poles apart. While delegations excha- cordial paperwork the Eastern Bloc c- tinues to build up its armaments with- let or hindrance. Any relaxation of pressure on the Soviet Union in Cen- Europe intensifies the pressure on E- rope's maritime flanks to north a- south.

The Strong Express manoeuvres designed to demonstrate that Nato is well able to combine detente and deter- rent. It is also intended to emphasise the maintenance of the balance of power cannot be restricted to Central Europe alone but must be extended to inclu- Europe as a whole. *Wolfgang Höpker*

(Deutsche Zeitung, 9 June 1972)

Kremlin seeks a security system that involves Asia

After President Nixon's visit to Moscow the holding of a European security conference is, from the Soviet leaders' point of view, merely a matter of time. Multilateral acknowledgment of the principle of inviolability of frontiers in Europe is thus likewise considered to be home and dry.

Moscow views the recognition of its present sphere of influence in Europe that this acknoledgment entails to be one successful outcome of its policy of coixistence.

The Kremlin evidently was not reckoning on everything coming to so relatively swift a successful conclusion. By and large the conclusion represents the completion of a major stage of the foreign policy programme laid down by Party leader Leonid Brezhnev at the 24th Congress of the CPSU.

According to the latest Soviet assessments the significance of the treaties concluded with Bonn lies in the fact that they amount to recognition of the integrity of GDR and Polish territory.

Soviet foreign policy always being drawn up on a long-term basis Moscow is now thinking in terms of multilateral political safeguards for frontiers to the East with the aid of a collective security system for Asia.

Chinese diplomats in Moscow had hoped until the last moment that the Moscow and Warsaw treaties with Bonn might come to grief. This would have placed an obstacle in the way of the European security conference and thus delayed the change of emphasis of Soviet foreign policy in the direction of Asia.

Soviet interest in an all-round clarification of the situation in Europe increased in the mid-sixties when China, particularly in the context of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, brought pressure to hear on Russia's Eastern frontier.

It was at this juncture that contact was made with Bonn and an agreement on renunciation of the use of force in mind. This goal has now assumed far greater and, from the Soviet point of view, more stable proportions than Moscow had originally expected.

Peking's European trump card is no longer so crucial, particularly now that Soviet endeavours to bring about a consolidation of the Eastern Bloc have come to a successful conclusion.

In *Mezhdunarodnaya Zhizn*, the foreign policy journal co-edited by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, the new situation is characterised as follows: —

The Soviet Union considers events in Europe in inter-relationship with those in Asia. In other words, now that the territorial position in Europe has been stabilised along Soviet lines China too is to be induced to acknowledge the status quo in Asia.

Moscow well realises that this will prove a long-term problem but this target is to be pursued as singlemindedly as the European security complex has been since the end of the sixties.

In Soviet foreign policy journals comparable in status to the US periodical *Foreign Affairs* three factors are mentioned that are reckoned to have resulted in a favourable point of departure for the Soviet Union.

They are: 1) the growing influence of the Soviet Union and other socialist states in Asian affairs, 2) the increased authority of Third World countries in Asia and 3) the changed balance of power in Asia.

The French attitude towards Indo-China is felt to be encouraging, as are growing trends towards non-alignment and collective security among countries belonging to the Cento and Seato pacts.

From the Soviet point of view the main adversaries of Soviet endeavours to bring about a collective Asian security system are China and the United States. Again from the Kremlin's point of view the major components of a system of this kind must be renunciation of the use of force and mutual acknowledgment of territorial inviolability.

In view of the clear superiority of the Soviet Union in balance-of-power terms priority has been given to acknowledgment of territorial inviolability and recognition of frontiers in connection with Bonn's Eastern treaties.

In view of acute tension on the Chinese border Moscow in the context of Asian security clearly attaches greater importance to renunciation of the use of force.

This is a logical enough emphasis. Centuries of Sino-Russian relations have shown without a shadow of doubt that there can be scant hope of a comprehensive frontier selltement holding forth the promise of lasting peace. Renunciation of the use of force, on the other hand, is a feasible proposition.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 15 June 1972)

The German Tribune

Publisher: Friedrich Reinecke. Managing Editor: Otto Heinz. Editor: Alexander Anthony. English language sub-editor: Geoffrey Penny — Distribution Manager: Georgine von Platen.

Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH, 23 Schöne Aussicht, Hamburg 76. Tel.: 2 28 51. Telex: 02 14733. Bonn bureau: Konrad Kadlubowski, 56 Adenauerallee, 53 Bonn. Tel.: 22 61 53. Telex: 08 86398.

Advertising rates list No. 8 — Annual subscription DM 25.

Printed by Krögers Buch- und Verlagsdruckerei, Hamburg-Blankenese. Distributed in the USA by: MASS MAILINGS, Inc. 540 West 24th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011.

All articles which THE GERMAN TRIBUNE reprint are published in cooperation with the editorial staffs of leading newspapers of the Federal Republic of Germany. They are complete translations of the original text, in no way abridged nor editorially redrafted. THE GERMAN TRIBUNE also publishes a Quarterly Review and a Supplement, articles selected from German periodicals.

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DOMESTIC POLITICS

Bavarian local elections throw up a few surprises

Bavarians have voted. These were not test elections prior to a premature Bundestag election, and Franz Josef Strauss was not even on the lists. At these elections 5,600,000 Bavarians (out of a total electorate of 7,300,000) voted for their mayors and town councils, aldermen and councillors. These were local elections that were almost entirely governed by local or regional considerations. And yet there were one or two specific surprises worthy of note.

Those who felt there could be a political landslide in Munich, an idea expressed with growing confidence as the election campaign rolled on, and that in the battle to succeed Hans-Jochen Vogel as burgomaster of Munich there would be no absolute majority at the first count, watched these elections with a high degree of excitement.

But fifty minutes after the polling stations closed when the first announcement of how voting had gone was made the "leftist" Munich Chairman Rudi Schöfberger clapped would-be burgomaster Georg Kronawitter (SPD) on the shoulder and said: "Georgie, you're halfway there."

It must have come as a surprise that SPD candidate Kronawitter, 44, was way ahead of the field with 55.7 per cent of *the* votes. It was a "despite everything" victory, said *Süddeutsche Zeitung*.

Kronawitter won despite the spectacular battle between the wings of the SPD, the Young Socialists and the supporters of Vogel, despite the prominent CDU *applicant Zehetmeier* (who polled 37.7 per cent) and despite the right-wing SPD renegade Günther Müller.

Bundestag member Müller, who fought his election campaign with no expense spared and with harangues worthy of the CSU presumably overdid it and destroyed his own credibility. He polled only 2.5 per cent in the election for the new burgomaster and his "Soziale Demokraten 72" managed only 1.7 per cent.

So the renegade's damage to the SPD was as good as nil, something which surprised even the SPD. When Müller viewed this result and claimed he was still "a third force" and "like the FDP in Bonn" everyone enjoyed this as the best joke of the whole election.

Munich has a good solid Social Democrat backing from regular voters as was proved once again in these elections. Many people were glad to applaud Vogel's successful policies for Bavaria's capital and express their desire to see these continued by Kronawitter. The theories and the tirades of radical Young Socialists may have cost the Munich SDP a few per cent of the vote, but obviously Munich citizens did not take their threat as seriously as it was cracked up to be.

Munich CSU leader Erich Kiesl, however, was far from happy with the result of the elections despite the respect Zehetmeier earnt for himself. He said: "SPD voters here would vote for a red broom."

Surprises came from other Bavarian cities, too. What happened in Erlangen will be regarded by some as a sensation, but the augurs prophesied it. Thirty-seven year-old Dietmar Hahlweg (SPD) scored 56.4 per cent and ousted Heinrich Lades (CSU) who had for many years been the city's top man. Even more surprising when it is remembered that Hahlweg has only been in the SPD for two years.

On the other hand, in two other towns, Ingolstadt and Straubing, the SPD lost the mayor's chain to the CSU. In both cases the long-established SPD mayor was not putting up again and his young successor lacked the personality to win the votes.

Meanwhile in Augsburg the surprise was that the mayor's chain did not pass from the SPD to the CSU candidate without further ado. The favourite second deputy burgomaster Kotter (CSU) only polled 49.2 per cent of the votes against the third deputy burgomaster Breuer of the SPD. A new election is required and it will hinge on how the votes fall from those voters who plumped for the FDP and NPD candidates on 11 June.

How about the women? None of the three who stood for mayor had any success. Erika Wisselinck (SPD) who stood in the Munich Landkreis against the established CSU District President obtained a "surprisingly good result" (*Süddeutsche Zeitung*) of 42.2 per cent.

One lady candidate from the NPD in Mid Franconia polled 1.8 per cent, a comparatively *good* achievement for the right-wing extremists!

And Paula Volkholz fell foul of the realignment of constituencies, to a certain extent. Her borough Kötzing in the Bavarian Forest was swallowed up into the new larger borough of Cham, where a CSU candidate was victorious. Paula only polled 27 per cent.

There has been no change in the political constellation of Bavaria as a result of this election. As before the CSU holds sway in the rural areas, where they have 45 District Presidents (*Landräte*) as opposed to the SPD's ten, six of whom are in Upper Franconia alone.

Perhaps another surprise is that in the main Upper Bavarian tourist areas such as Garmisch-Partenkirchen and Schliersee the SPD provides the mayor and in Tegernsee and Ruhpolding another election is required as no candidate has obtained the required absolute majority.

One curiosity was provided by the Passion Play village of Oberammergau. The CSU had signed up almost all the holy VIPs from the 1970 play. Christ, John, Caiphas and even Judas were on their side, and for the ladies and lovers of the fairer sex they offered the delectable Virgin Mary, 23 year-old Beatrix Schwarz. With this band of Christian soldiers they planned to topple burgomaster Ernst Zwink (Independent). But they failed. The Independent remains mayor, the CSU lost one seat and for the first time the SPD won two seats on the sixteen-strong council. *Kilian Gassner*

(Die Zeit, 16 June 1972)

Wehner re-elected SPD chairman unanimously

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Re-election of Herbert Wehner as the chairman of the SPD parliamentary party was practically a formality. He had no competitors. With regard to the future this situation cannot be pleasing for the SPD, since it underlines how the party lacks outstanding personalities with powers of leadership.

Certainly the parliamentary party has no lack of specialists but there appears to be no one capable of leading the whole parliamentary party in place of Wehner, despite the shortcomings that for the first time brought Wehner 27 votes against.

Helmut Schmidt would be the only one to whom the SPD could entrust the leadership of the parliamentary party in the Bundestag, as in the days of the Grand Coalition. Schmidt, himself, would be happier the sooner he could take over this office, but he knows that the move from the Defence Ministry back to the Bundestag is not possible without rumours spreading that he ducked out of his responsibilities in the Ministry. Furthermore Willy Brandt is probably happier to see Schmidt in his present position than in the powerful chairmanship of the parliamentary group.

But for this position, apart from the all-purpose politician Schmidt, there is no other feasible candidate. If the SPD one day finds itself back on the opposition benches it is inconceivable that even Brandt will head the parliamentary party, at least as inconceivable as Kurt Georg Kiesinger taking over the corresponding position after the CDU/CSU were toppled from power in 1969.

To lead a parliamentary group successfully a man requires manifold political, psychological and human capabilities and qualities. Experience in the SPD and other parliamentary groups has shown that the chairman must have staying power and the ability to get his wishes carried out. He must be armed and ready to fight the formation of cliques and must have diplomatic skills to reconcile varying vested interests.

The 27 votes against showed that a growing number of SPD members is unsatisfied with Wehner's leadership. Eighteen months ago there were only thirteen votes against.

Since there were 160 votes in favour of Wehner the voice of the dissenters even this time was still small, but it does show a certainly tendency towards a group in opposition to Wehner. For some members to the left of the party Wehner's policies are felt to be insufficiently socialist orientated while other members feel he is excessively socialist minded. Others have had Wehner treading on their toes at one time or another while others have been bawled out by him.

When it comes to pushing through a certain policy Wehner, who is approaching 66, tends to forget himself and other people. The present stalemate in Bonn is a nerve-racking time for all and not least the parliamentary party chairman.

As has been the case so often in the past twelve years since Wehner steered the SPD on a Nato course Wehner is now having to call up all his experience in his work for the party and at times he cannot avoid giving offence. When it comes to sensitive, humorous chatterboxes, helpful affable types and the studied patriot Wehner loses his patience. He has no time for any of them.

In a television interview on the night before his re-election Wehner said: "I'm not the sort to resign." *Reinhard Appel*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 14 June 1972)

Strauss and CSU seem prepared to go it alone

Bavaria's Christian Social Union has obviously considered the idea of coming out in open competition with its sister party, the Christian Democratic Union at the next general election battle. Indications that this is the case have been underlined.

Probably in an alliance with 'guest member' Siegfried Zoglmann, ex-FDP, and Günther Müller, a former SPD man, the CSU will develop its nationwide interests.

Although such a setup is not likely to make much headway politically these plans do show clearly that CSU leader Franz Josef Strauss has not yet buried the hatchet and plans to continue making life difficult for his opposite number in the CDU, Rainer Barzel.

At the same time this move must be viewed as an attack on the free Democrats, since it continues a line that was tried in the Baden-Württemberg state elections. It is also possible that it is designed to appeal to SPD voters who feel their party has moved too far towards the left.

Finally, what is probably the main aim of this colourful right-wing venture, following the acceptance that Zoglmann's *Deutsche Union* has found in its alliance with the CDU, the new setup could sift off from the CDU voters who do not feel the Christian Democrats are sufficiently right wing.

Both "union party" head offices have issued denials of the rumours, but not very convincingly. The fact remains that the idea of the CSU breakaway may have been formed last October in Munich.

It was planned that the first move would be the resignation of Herbert Hupka from the SPD at a strategic moment before the Baden-Württemberg elections to cast doubt on the validity of the Moscow and Warsaw Treaties in the hope of collecting votes from the ranks of the expellees.

As for FDP members Baron Knut von Kühlmann-Stumm and Gerhard Kienbaum, both of whom have now left the party but have given up their seats and their vote in the Bundestag, their job was to cause unrest in the FDP ranks, especially among the liberals of the old order.

Another carefully planned manoeuvre thought out last autumn and timed for the day of the Baden-Württemberg elections was the resignation of Lower-Saxony member Wilhelm Helms from the FDP. In the event of the FDP's being routed at the elections his resignation was designed to serve as a signal that the ship was sinking, leading to the break-up of the party and hence the Bonn coalition. But the Baden-Württemberg election did not turn out the way the CSU and the CDU economic council had hoped. For this reason the ploy of attempting to uproot the coalition with a constructive vote of no-confidence was tried. This also flopped, mainly because three Opposition members failed to give their seal of approval to Barzel. But it now seems certain that on that historic day in the Bundestag, Kühlmann-Stumm, Kienbaum and Helms as well as Müller, who was still SPD at that time, voted in favour of the Bavarian strategy.

Government circles in Bonn gather Müller turned traitor on them from the fact that his "Soziale Demokraten 72" election campaign began abrupty and with good preparation on the day this project was first unveiled to the public. Its advertising agents were a large firm that normally promotes industrial concerns. Not only were the ads well thought out, but hoardings and newspaper space had obviously been booked up well in advance.

Experts assess that it was Müller's campaign that forced the SPD to make large-scale expenditure on plugging itself for the Munich elections. The question remains who was backing Müller up to the hilt with the requisite cash.

On the face of it the CDU disagrees with its guest Zoglmann and his Deutsche Union, by all accounts. But the CSU plans to clear the way for this party to enter the Bundestag by using the "piggy-back" procedure in three constituencies. This would give it the chance of turning up all over the country as the CSU/Deutsche Union, since the votes for the CSU in Bavaria are sufficient to surmount the five-per-cent barrier.

One of the consequences of this procedure, however, would be that the CDU/CSU group could not be continued in the next Bundestag. Strauss's group would have to form its own parliamentary party. *Wolfgang Fechner*

(Neue Hannoversche Presse, 16 June 1972)

MASS MEDIA

International Press Institute meets in Munich

Publishers, journalists and members of the International Press Institute meet every two years to discuss the problems of the press as a mass medium and exchange notes. The latest general assembly was held in Munich

Karl Schiller, the Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, described a recent congress held in Munich as being of a not altogether everyday quality. Representatives of the press from five continents came to West Germany for the 21st General Assembly of the International Press Institute.

IPI President Aw Sian, a woman journalist from Hongkong, summed up discussions in one sentence: "The pressure exerted on the press all over the world is rising."

The pressure is rising. Aw Sian was referring to the political threat endangering the freedom of the press in many countries. The IPI passed a number of resolutions in Munich against both Singapore and Taiwan where journalists are being held under detention because of their frank reporting. These are not the only countries where this happens.

The International Press Institute can give the names of at least one hundred journalists who have been thrown into prison for this. These are only the cases that have come to the IPI's attention. Nobody within the organisation dares estimate how high the number of persecuted journalists actually is.

Speaking in a discussion entitled "My fight for the freedom of the press", Czech journalist Dusan Havlecek, once a leading pressman under Dubcek, revealed in rather depressed tones what journalists in countries like Czechoslovakia feel.

"How can I speak on this subject when we have already lost this fight," Havlecek complained.

Turning from economic and political problems — outside pressure — discussion centred on internal reform of the press. Dr Hans Heigert, head of the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, spoke of the rules of the game governing journalists and publishers. The question asked in the debate was whether staff participation in decision-making could improve a newspaper's chances of survival or success.

Alfred Neven DuMont, publisher of the *Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger* and head of the West German IPI National Committee, described the state of affairs in the Federal Republic and came straight to the main problem.

"Power and capital on the one side and ideas and imagination on the other are always disproportionate to one another," he commented. "This gap has still to be bridged."

Participation as it is now understood could help to overcome social tension, DuMont claimed. In this respect, staff participation in decision-making could increase a firm's efficiency and the quality of its products.

Speeches by Jean Schwoebel of *Le Monde* (Paris) and Paul Ringler, the former publisher of the *Milwakee Journal*, showed the extent to which views on this subject vary.

Schwoebel stated that the question as to the desirability of staff participation in decision-making need not be asked. Participation is a basic condition for journalistic success, he claimed.

Ringler on the other hand could not imagine editorial staffs having any far-reaching share in decision-making. He could not think how this would help the survival or wellbeing of a newspaper.

Lateef Jakande, a Nigerian and the newly-elected president of the IPI Executive Committee, sees danger in over-rapid technological development. This danger can become acute if a journalist is not prepared for it. He mentioned the need for fighting for the freedom of the press in the same breath as the importance of journalistic training.

The fact that an African was elected president for the first time is a symbol for IPI delegates that the organisation feels a large part of its work is helping the Third World.

After the end of the congress delegates were taken on guided tours meant to show West Germany not only as an industrial power but also as a romantic country for tourists.

In Bonn the delegates were greeted by North Rhine-Westphalia's Prime Minister Heinz Kühn acting on behalf of President Gustav Heinemann.

Werner Meyer

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 9 June 1972)

Too much TV violence, West Germans maintain

More than two thirds of West Germans believe that too much violence is screened on West German television, according to a poll conducted by the Institute of Applied Social Science (Infas).

The results showed that 69 per cent opposed so much violence on television while 25 per cent did not mind it and six per cent were don't-knows.

The interviewed sample was almost unanimous in the view that children should not be allowed free rein when choosing what programmes they wanted to watch. A total of 97 per cent held this view.

A total of 57 per cent demanded that children should not be allowed to see programmes containing violence while 37 per cent of the sample did not mind children seeing violence on television now and again.

Most television-viewers do not believe that an end to violence would take the pleasure from Westerns and crime series. A total of 55 per cent think that none of the excitement would be lost while 29 per cent believe that the programmes would become more boring as a result.

The poll reveals that Westerns and crime series are still the most popular types of programme — 53 per cent of the sample like watching them. Among 18 to 24-year-olds this figure is as high as 74 per cent.

It is also this age range that would miss the violence — 36 per cent of them fear that programmes would become boring if the violence were cut out. The least criticism of scenes of violence and brutality comes from this age group. Sixty-three per cent believed that there was too much television violence.

The Infas poll was conducted in February and March of this year among 1,082 people of eighteen or more in West Germany and West Berlin.

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 30 May 1972)

Susy knows all the answers

Plans for a data-bank system drawn up jointly by the West German branch of IBM and the "Electronic Information and Documentation Centre for Press and Broadcasting" Committee established two years ago have now been revealed to journalists and publishers in Hamburg.

The West German press agency *dpa* — the controlling body of the committee which consists of well known newspaper and periodical publishers as well as broadcasting companies — began to use a data-bank at the beginning of the year.

Susy — as the new electronic search system is called at *dpa* — is now to be thoroughly probed by experts and future users.

When giving the first public display of the data-bank, Dr. Thilo Pohlert, the managing director of *dpa*, stated that computer systems had to be used in order to cope better with the increasing flood of information throughout the world.

Information is screened on a television monitor that does not have to be in the immediate vicinity of the computer. The procedure chosen for the prototype has a number of advantages:

Questions can be asked in normal language.

The searching process is tailor-made to the user and is pre-programmed with a number of key-words.

Answers can be provided in a number of forms.

Experiments now being conducted are meant to find the best methods for the further expansion and rational usage of a text and picture data-bank for editorial staffs in journalism and broadcasting.

Shortened versions of information already recorded are stored on magnetic tapes. Copies of the original documents and longer texts are to be found in the micro-film department.

With the help of the computer the desired information can be obtained from the data-bank in a matter of seconds — it is like looking up a word in the index of a book. If more information is required, it will be found on micro-film screened in enlarged form.

Editorial staffs requested that the particularly complex sphere of social services policy be chosen to put the data-bank through its paces. The most important events of 1971, disaster reports from all over the world and news of persons in public life were also recorded. At present some ten thousand documents are stored.

Putting into practice a project for a data-bank covering all German-speaking areas is only possible, the initiators of the scheme believe, if newspapers, periodicals and broadcasting companies cooperate on the venture. It is hoped to interest one hundred potential users from the press and broadcasting in expanding the scheme.

Information will consist of condensed material specially selected to suit the needs of the press and broadcasting companies. Questions will be asked in natural language and the screens providing the information desired will also have a micro-film reader attached so that the user can have access to the original document. It is proposed to make the data-bank available to industry, government and other interested parties.

(Kieler Nachrichten, 7 June 1972)

IPI defends press freedom in the world

Süddeutsche Zeitung

When established through Ame… initiatives in 1950-51, the I… national Press Institute was intend… be a powerful instrument for the p… tion of the freedom of the press a… State oppression in the unfree world.

Publishers such as Lord Thomps… Fleet and the Japanese industrial … press magnate Honda appeared a… congresses but its most vocal suppo… were journalists like the American libe… Walter Lippmann, or the Austrian So… Democrat Oskar Pollak.

The Institute played an active rol… preventing the free press from b… oppressed in countries like Turkey a… Indonesia and helped the developmen… a free press in many States of Africa … southern Asia.

The IPI did not allow itself to be … in the Cold War. It even provi… effective help on a number of occasi… for overcoming the political differe… between East and West.

It helped prepare the way fo… Atomic Non-Proliferation Treaty … ganising a press conference befor… decisive negotiations to explain the is… involved. The main negotiators and re… sentatives of Eastern European … papers in Geneva were also invited … attend.

Realising that little could be done fo… the West in establishing freedom for th… press of the Communist dictatorships i… the East, the IPI was all the mo… concerned about protecting the freedo… of speech in the non-Communist wo…

Along with the restrictions somet… imposed upon the press by the S… mergers of private concerns are a… creasing threat to the freedom of … press. The Institute had already … with this problem at earlier congr… and warned against fighting the dan… that monopolies create for the freedo… of the press with the dangerous count… measure of extended State control … press organisations.

Discussions throughout the world … tending to centre more and more on … question of the right balance betw… State intervention, the activities of … dependent social organisations and initi… tives by private concerns in press an… broadcasting.

Differences discussed

Differences between publishers and journalists were also discussed at this year's congress after a certain degree of staff participation has been introduc… France and West Germany.

IPI world conferences are also intend… to give the international press first-ha… information. At previous congres… Indira Gandhi discussed India's polic… after the Tashkent Conference and Pr… mier Trudeau of Canada explained hi… country's foreign policy within the fram… work of the Western alliance. This tim… Karl Schiller provided the West Germ… viewpoint on the stabilisation of cu… rencies and world trade.

Immanuel Birnbaum

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 5 June 197…)

LABOUR RELATIONS

The Volkswagen colossus faces new crises

The powerful Volkswagen concern when headed by Heinrich Nordhoff produced the Beetle and built it up into an international symbol of all that was good about West German manufacturing seems to have gradually turned into an ailing colossus.

Volkswagen manager, Kurt Lotz stuck to his predecessor's designs despite constant changes on the automobile market. Since he left the firm it cannot be denied that though the Beetle is still popular it is no longer such a hit as in the past.

The only paradoxical aspect is that the belief that something must be done is only now gaining ground. Opel has overtaken Volkswagen as far as sales figures are concerned and the proportion of foreign vehicles being sold is on a continual increase.

It is particularly medium-range vehicles running off the assembly line in Wolfsburg that are being threatened by foreign competition. Volkswagen are no longer bought because of the name.

It was left to a mass-circulation paper to organise what it called its *Aktion 49* to reveal what executives in Wolfsburg have been trying to hide as best they can. The monotony of the Beetle programme cannot be replaced overnight by the wide-range system planned by Rudolf Leiding, a technician and chairman of the board. The man on the street knows this as well as car manufacturers. It therefore seems odd that differences within the firm grow the more sales drop.

The criticism that 49 members of staff are dismissed every month as a result of reports of "irregularities" may not be correct, as the Volkswagen press spokesman claims.

But 63- and 64-year-olds are being offered early pensions in the hope that they will retire. Highly-qualified staff is being secretly scaled down at a time when competitors are once again beginning to introduce special shifts.

No new workers are being taken on and the total employed is being reduced by about one thousand a month. But management is not making any effort to produce successful models — even those built by the subsidiary firm Audi — in greater numbers though the demand for motor vehicles is as higher as ever.

Leiding stated in May that there were no grounds to doubt the concern's capabilities or even to go so far as to speak of a crisis. The firm is healthy to the core, he claimed. Translated into everyday language, this means that two years are needed before the splendour of past times can once again be achieved.

Nobody has yet been able to lift the veil of mystery surrounding plans for a successful Volkswagen programme. Investment has been stopped and at the same time more outside capital is being raised.

Scaling down personnel is being done with little mention being made of the fact. Six to eight thousand workers have left the firm. However the number of cases of sickness have sunk drastically as a result, amounting in practical terms to a new batch of six thousand workers.

This policy does however stand in contradiction to plans for even greater production of the Beetle despite the fact that over 5,800 cars of this series are being built every day. To make confusion complete, news is coming in from the United States that the number of Volkswagen being sold is declining.

West German automobile manufacturers can look back on a record year. Leiding increased investment in Brazil and Mexico in order to produce new models such as the Safari and sell them straight from their country of manufacture to customers in the United States and elsewhere.

This may be a way of fighting the costs spiral that is affecting more firms than just Volkswagen. At the same time production is being switched abroad in order to work with cheaper labour.

This would automatically mean that fewer Volkswagen vehicles would run off assembly lines in West Germany — and fewer workers would be needed. There is a mood of uncertainty in Wolfsburg as a result. Foreign workers are no longer taking time off to travel home as they fear dismissal.

Car-workers in both Brazil and Neckarsulm have learned that Leiding is a strict taskmaster. The clocking-in procedure now introduced by Volkswagen may only be a minor irritant. But it would be bad if the Volkswagen concern were to get into a crisis through mass dismissals. Management caused it and it would be the workers who clean up the mess.

Leiding is in a difficult position now and his decisions may be dictated by outside influences. Car manufacturers within the European Economic Community and in Japan are trying to catch up on Volkswagen's sale figures. Seen in this light, the Volkswagen crises may only be just beginning. Whatever the case, Wolfsburg is facing a trouble period.

Felix Schneider

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 9 June 1972)



(Photo: dpa)

Eugen Loderer, new head of the world's largest trade union

Eugen Loderer, deputy head of the Metalworkers Union, was elected union leader at an extraordinary union meeting on 10 June. He succeeds Otto Brenner who died in office.

Observers look upon the career of 52-year-old Eugen Loderer as a typical example of a trade unionists career. His rise has not been meteoric though it has been steady. Loderer, a former metalworker, is now at the head of the Metalworkers Trade Union, with 2.3 million members, the largest single union in the world.

Born in Heidenheim/Brenz on 28 May 1920 the son of a brewer, Loderer's trade union career began right after the war when he became a member of the youth committee of the local Heidenheim branch of the Metal Industry Trade Union, the forerunner to the Metalworkers Trade Union. His rise was closely linked to that of Willi Bleicher, branch secretary of the North Baden-North Württemberg section of the Metalworkers Union who helped Loderer on his way during these early post-war years.

Loderer reached the top of the ladder in Baden-Württemberg when he was elected chairman of the Trades Union Confederation in the Federal state in 1963.

Loderer, married though without any children, was always characterised by his political commitment as a trade unionist. He joined the Social Democratic Party in 1949 and was appointed deputy chairman of the party's Baden-Württemberg branch in 1966. For a time in 1968 he became acting head of the Baden-Württemberg SPD and became known to broader sections of the public during this period.

Loderer, a person of considerable steadfastness despite his reserved nature, returned to trade unionist activities in 1968 when delegates at the Metalworkers Union Congress in Munich elected him deputy chairman of the organisation. Both Otto Brenner and Willi Bleicher are thought to have done a lot to secure his election.

Since then Loderer has always been thought of as Brenner's successor — Brenner had wanted to give up his post in 1974 anyway. But Brenner's death meant that Loderer will be able to take his place at an earlier stage — and he will find it hard to live up to the achievements of his predecessor.

Harald Bojunga

(Bremer Nachrichten, 10 June 1972)

Job position improves

The labour market in West Germany, including West Berlin, is at present in a stage of transition. "The danger of sliding into a state of unemployment now seems to be banished," the Federal Institute of Labour claimed in its latest monthly report.

A powerful upsurge early this year meant that winter unemployment was soon overcome. Stronger economic trends are once again proving a determinant factor.

Demand for labour has already picked up though the Federal Institute of Labour does not believe that this signifies a general upsurge. As far as factors contributing to an upsurge are already effective; they are insufficient to help industry pick up on a broad front. However, it can be said now that developments in the first six months of 1972 have been more favourable than was generally expected at the start of the year.

Unemployment went down 9.9 per cent in May. The unemployment figure is now one per cent compared to 1.1 per cent in April. Comparing this with developments in past years shows that May brought no alteration to unemployment caused by economec factors. The total figure was 65.400 or 45.8 per cent higher than the comparable period in 1971.

There was a clear improvement as far as short-time working was concerned. The number of workers on short time sunk by 23,800 or 29.2 per cent between mid-April and mid-May, dropping to 57,700.

The slight pick-up in demand for labour was maintained in May. The number of vacancies increased by 21,700 or 3.9 per cent to 576.600.

(Neue Hannoversche Presse, 7 June 1972)

Steps to improve the lot of the more than four million handicapped persons in West Germany were discussed as the main theme at the Second Federal Congress for the Handicapped organised in Bad Godesberg by the Association of War and Military Service Victims, the Handicapped and Invalids (VdK).

Handicapped need more aid, VdK congress claims

Discussions did not centre around the mutilated victims of two world wars and military service in the West German armed forces as much as they did around people who were handicapped as a result of accidents, damage incurred during birth, premature physical exhaustion caused by heavy manual work or other reasons.

The cause of the handicap should not be the determining factor in estimating the degree of protection a handicapped person needs and aid needed, Herbert Ehrenberg, State Secretary at the Ministry of Labour, told the congress.

The fact that a person is handicapped and the extent to which it impairs his activities is of more importance, he stated in his report on legislation to protect the handicapped and invalids. A Bill to this effect is currently passing through parliament.

Congress found that the fifteen priority demands made by the VdK where the rehabilitation of handicapped persons is concerned largely tallied with government plans for reform in this sphere.

Laws governing invalids are to be amended so as to be in line with the modern view that all handicapped persons must be rehabilitated. The Cabinet recently approved a Bill proposing the standardisation of rehabilitation payments.

No solution is yet in sight for the increase in government subsidies called for by the VdK for building accommodation suitable for the handicapped. The government will probably not be able to meet repeated VdK demands and pay for rehabilitation from social benefit.

Social benefit, Ehrenberg stated, was bases on principles upon which bodies financing rehabilitation did not depend. Sickness insurance schemes would help cover the cost in future, he added, so that wives and children who are also insured could have a full right to rehabilitation contributions.

Ingeborg Jahn

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 8 June 1972)

Violations of labour laws affecting young people increase

Violations of laws protecting young people who work are on the increase, especially in the butchery trade, bakeries and manual service industries. Apprentices and trainees are often made to work too long, with too few or too short breaks, and are ordered to do illegal weekend work. They are asked to work too many hours a week and this means they have no time to attend vocational colleges.

These accusations are made by the Youth Labour Protection Law Committee at the North Rhine-Westphalia Minis-

Continued on page 7

WORKERS FROM ABROAD

Foreign workers are still in the dark about *their* parliament

DIE ZEIT

Apostolos F., 37, a Greek, is more at home with pictures than with letters of the alphabet. Carefully he compares the photographs of the 23 Greek candidates with the names printed beside them. Only then does he place his ten crosses beside ten names on the voting slip.

Apostolos is for the first time entitled to take part in a democratic vote in the Federal Republic. He is at one of the polling booths in Troisdorf-Sieglar, the largest town in the Rhein-Sieg borough between Cologne and Bonn.

He and other foreign workers, Greeks, Turks, Spaniards, Italians and Yugoslavs, from the "rural industrial town", population 54,000, were invited to take part in an election with a free, secret vote, direct election and absolute equality, with each foreign worker entitled to vote for ten candidates of his nationality. Since one in ten people in Troisdorf-Sieglar is a foreigner the electorate was quite large.

About half of the 5,000 entitled to vote went to the polls. Thus Troisdorf now possesses the first official foreigners' parliament in North Rhine-Westphalia.

The Troisdorf foreigners' parliament did not arise from a state of conflict. It is to a far greater extent the logical development of a model experiment which the administration of Troisdorf began last year with the encouragement and support of the North Rhine-Westphalian Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Welfare.

The aim of this plan was to take an important step along the road towards integrating foreign workers into the working and social life of the Federal Republic.

The first step was taken last October with the opening of "Haus International", designed as a meeting place for all foreign worker groups and the locals with its club-rooms, library, and lecture halls, an interview room for the foreign workers' citizens rights officer, a beat-cellar and a kindergarten for foreign and German children.

Up till now the law has prevented foreigners from representing their interests in local governments. Troisdorf found a way round this. Unanimously the town council passed a resolution amending the bye-laws in favour of foreign workers. In future their elected representatives will be able to sit in at council meetings whenever matters concerning the foreign labour force are discussed, a right that it was not originally intended to grant. They will not have voting rights and will thus not be able to influence decisions, but they will be able to express their feelings.

The first election was probably a more important occasion than Apostolos F. and many of his foreign colleagues realised. Many of them shrugged their shoulders when asked what they thought the elections were all about. Mostly they knew only that they had to put ten crosses by the names of their fellow-countrymen. Apostolos had not been to any of the pre-election meetings to find out what it was all about.

Mehmed A., a 24 year-old Turk, had a specific aim in mind, however, when he made his choice at the elections: "We Turks must stick together, then things will be much better for us." The Turks were the least apathetic when it came to visiting the pre-election meetings. Their 54.4 per cent vote at the elections was also the highest.

The Italians, on the other hand, had difficulty finding candidates. Like every other national group they had the right to propose ten candidates who must be over the age of eighteen and registered in Troisdorf for at least one month. There should have been a number of candidates from which they would choose ten, but on the day there were only two to choose from!

West German commentators blame the shortage of candidates on a lack of information, while the Italians claim that the trouble is most of the Italian workers in the area are Sicilians who do not understand the importance of the elections. "They consider politics a dirty business from which only the candidates gain anything."

New elections

The Yugoslavs could only find six candidates as well and they and the Italians are to have new elections in the autumn with better preparations than were made this time. The Spanish were unique in electing three female representatives.

Who can tell whether the Troisdorf parliament will help to close the gap between foreign workers and their hosts. "Haus International" does not yet seem to have made a great impression on the Troisdorfers. Most of them do not even know that the old house where the mayor used to live has a new name and a new function. And those that know it show the old prejudices: "We can't go to that place. It's where them foreigners meets!"

Eve-Maria Schlier
(Die Zeit, 9 June 1972)

More say in decision-making for civil servants

The Cabinet has approved plans for new worker participation in decision-making law in the public services after final consultations with the trade unions. Interior Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher told journalists that the Bill was ... part of the government's reform programme.

Workers in private industry have already had their rights of participation in decision-making extended. The time has now come for workers, salaried staff and officials in the public services to have a greater say in issues affecting them.

The main section of the Bill concerns the extension of the rights of decision-making enjoyed by staff representatives in issues affecting personnel and social security.

These rights are restricted as far as public officials and civil servants are concerned as according to laws governing industrial relations public officials' ... decisions in matters of personnel are ... exempt from government responsibility and can be transferred to a department independent of both government and parliament.

Participation in decision-making in matters of personnel would include appointment, promotion, transfers and dismissal. Under the extended rights of decision-making by personnel representatives there will be a drop in the number of cases where personnel representatives have only an advisory capacity.

Special regulations will ensure that the personal rights of the individual will not be impaired.

The government places great store on protecting minorities. The personnel representation law therefore adheres to the current practice of dividing up workers, salaried staffs and public officials. Genscher states that this should ensure against a small group being suffocated by larger groups.

The limits of participation in decision-making in the public services are noted as set out by laws governing civil servants and the verdicts by the Constitutional Court. It must also be guaranteed that the efficiency of the administration is not impaired by too extreme an extension of participation rights.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 25 May 1972)

Foreign workers suffer from special illnesses doctors say

It is becoming more and more usual for the more than two million foreign workers in this country to think of making West Germany their permanent home, or at least of staying here for a lengthy period. Thus the relationship between foreign workers and West German doctors is tending more and more to build up into the typical family doctor relationship, and especially when the *Gastarbeiter* bring their families over to join them.

More and more doctors are finding more and more foreign workers in their waiting rooms and they tend to be special patients with special complaints that the doctor has to get used to.

Thus there was good reason for the 21st West German Congress on Further Education in Medicine in Berlin to devote an afternoon to "foreign workers from the doctor's point of view".

It is estimated that the West German economy will require three million foreign workers by 1980, so the problems that arise are far from temporary.

Of course the most important work in this field is that done by the offices of the Federal Labour Institute in Italy, Spain, Greece, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Tunisia and Morocco. They sift out all would-be immigrants who have illnesses or are not physically suitable for the type of work for which they are applying.

The Institute's doctor-in-chief Dr Erich Hoeschel from Nuremberg rejected the accusation that medical examinations are carried out at such an early stage that it is possible for a foreign workers to slip into West Germany with an infection picked up following the medical tests.

Furthermore there is another way for foreign workers to get into the country, namely with a visa from the German consul in the applicant's country.

Dr Wilhelm Nesswetha from Marburg University claimed that on average when foreign workers commence jobs in the Federal Republic they are in a better state of health than West German workers in a comparable position. But the difference is not permanent and is likely to level out in their first twelve months in this country.

It is clear that difficulties in adjusting to working conditions in this country tend to make foreign workers go sick. These manifest themselves in circulatory complaints and psychosomatic complications with headaches, dizziness and tiredness. They can lead to stomach ulcers.

Furthermore foreign workers seem to be affected by adjustment to different social conditions. Dr Nesswetha says it may take as long as two years before the foreign workers gets adjusted to industrialised civilisation and different working conditions in this country.

The doctor says that there is a direct connection between the difficulty experienced by foreign workers in adjusting, their susceptibility to sickness and their change of job. He feels that preventive therapy would be valuable, perhaps taking the form of continued interviews with the foreign worker by the works doctor so that his problems can be diagnosed in advance.

Dr Gisélen Sedlaczek also spoke of the unusually high incidence of peptic ulcers among *Gastarbeiter*, which cannot be put down entirely to their being unused to the German diet.

The doctors agreed that the psychosomatic overexertion syndrome among foreign workers that is expressed in any number of trifling complaints could not be ignored. Among the other illnesses that seemed to dog foreign workers were colds, various forms of anaemia, and pains in the limbs.

Even though practising doctors do not often have to face particular *Gastarbeiter* diseases this is a matter on which it is necessary to keep a watchful eye, and refresher courses on tropical diseases are advisable, Dr Sedlaczek says. Professor Werner Mohr, Senior Physician at the Hamburg Institute for Tropical Diseases, spoke on this subject.

Mediterranean infectious diseases are a major problem for doctors dealing with foreign workers, since the majority of them come from this area.

Professor Mohr had had to deal with Malta Fever, salmonella infections, Kala Azary, amoebic infections and various types of worm. The patterns of these diseases were not always easy to trace, he explained.

Malaria is a disease that West German doctors rarely come up against in their foreign patients, said Professor Mohr, since the disease has virtually been conquered in Mediterranean countries. But leprosy is still a threat in Greece, southern Italy, Sicily, Spain and Portugal. But the Professor said that native Germans had little to fear from any of these diseases, with the exception of salmonella infections, since they could rarely be passed on directly.

Dieter Dietrich
(Der Tagesspiegel, 28 May 1972)

Rendsburg meeting favours giving foreigners the vote

At a joint meeting of the Deutsche Jungdemokraten (DJD) and the Junge Europäische Föderalisten (JEF) in Rendsburg the two Federal state Chairmen Herr Hadewig (DJD) and Herr S... (JEF) came out in favour of foreign workers in the Federal Republic being allowed to vote in and stand as candidates for local government elections.

In a statement to the press the two organisations stated that the main point of this move would be to give people from other EEC countries who have been working in the Federal Republic for at least a year the right to exercise an influence on matters that concern them at a local government level.

The two Chairmen feel that this step could pave the way to a similar move in other EEC countries. Later on, it is hoped, Germans who have gone to work in other EEC countries would similarly have the right to vote at local elections.

(Kieler Nachrichten, 29 May 1972)

COMMON MARKET

Self-seeking prevents EEC becoming truly European

Members of the EEC Commission, it is reported, have stated that they will resign if they are not allowed to take part in preparations for the EEC summit conference, to take place this autumn in Paris. There can be no clearer indication of the impotence of this important institution, which depends on the good will of the individual European governments. The following report deals with the weaknesses of the Commission and other European institutions.

Brussels, the Belgian capital has become the capital of Europe, so they say. But this is not true. Even Europeans are not agreed about this. Brussels is for the moment just the provisional headquarters of the EEC Commission.

Will Brussels one day earn itself the honour of truly becoming the European capital? There are many who envy the Belgian capital. Everyone would like a piece of European glory for himself. Some have succeeded in grabbing a share and others have already come forward with their claims and the practical work for Europe is still suffering under national self-seeking.

The thirteen storey EEC Centre in Brussels with its four massive wings is unique. Its 1,500 offices have accommodation for about 3,000 people, that is to say only a small slice of the EEC bureaucracy. It should have enough space for all the meetings, expert consultations and for all the groups of visitors who have business with the EEC each day.

But the building is dangerous. It was put up with money from the pension fund for civil servants in the Belgian Congo as a solid investment. The pension fund rented it to the Belgian State and the State to the EEC. The price demanded was horrendous and certainly too high for the thrifty EEC Commission.

France wasted no time in coming forward and offering its disused Nato Centre in Paris for a nominal rent of one franc per annum. The idea behind this was clear enough, the Belgians understood and the rent for their building was halved. The EEC accepted. It was only afterwards that they learnt what they had taken on.

The building not only has thirteen storeys above ground but also four levels of cellars. These contain the well-appointed conference rooms with enough accommodation for meetings both large small, including equipment for simultaneous translation. But the safety provision in case of fire is insufficient so the Commission has forbidden the 22 conference rooms to be used.

For the past two years they have stood there unoccupied and unusable. The result is that visitors have to be turned away and conferences must be held in hotels. Work suffers. Europe is not working properly even below stairs!

Europe is a vague term. It vaguely covers cultural points held in common, but apart from that it is a mixture of many nations which occasionally understand each other, but more often misunderstand each other.

It is certainly not a unity. It comes closer together when the Russians start cutting up rough. At such times the little countries cling together and discover that they have a lot of people who could be strong when united. But when the Russians are nice they drift apart. It's the same old song.

Europe as a unit exists only in the EEC. If Euratom is taken into account this employs 9,000 people. That is Europe. Nine thousand people racking their brains to try to find a way to bring the rest closer together. Nine thousand people who sit together and work jointly with one spirit, you might think. It would be nice if that were true.

We read in the papers that the Council of Ministers has decided this or that. In fact the Council of Ministers is the senior decision-making body of the EEC.

It is formed of six ministers of the six member countries, soon to be swelled to ten. It is served by a staff of 600 people. Every minister has his permanent representative, known as an ambassador, who in his turn has a national staff at his disposal.

This Council is the would-be government of the European Economic Community. In reality it is naught but a convenient meeting place where the various national interests are hammered out. Every vote is equal and one No puts an end to any resolution, thus acting like the veto at the United Nations Security Council. And so right at the top of the European tree the principle of absolute sovereignty of the nation State has a bulwark.

The EEC Commission works beneath the Council of Ministers, which at present consists of nine members, all of them recognised by the Council. The present President is Sicco Mansholt from the Netherlands.

This Commission votes with a simple majority system and thus is capable of action off its own bat. But the decisions are taken by the Council and not the Commission. The Commission has 24 general-directors' offices, which are practically ministries. It is an eager body and works for Europe. But the suggestions it makes end up at the Council and generally come to grief there. There are already 340 proposals lying in the cellar, postponed, put off, forgotten, and these include such important measures as the move to harmonise tax systems throughout the EEC, legislation for the free capital market and the freedom of movement of the press.

This is the way it is: The Council of Ministers can make decisions that are binding in law, but it rarely does so because of the difficulty of reaching agreement. The European Commission is all set to make decisions, but it is not allowed to do so. Europe is a cripple from its leadership downwards.

But this is not the end of the absurdities in Europe. Before the EEC was created in 1957 the senior authority of the Mining Community was based in Luxemburg. Adenauer, Schuman and de Gasperis wanted Luxemburg to be the European capital. But the Church put a stop to this, fearing it would lead to Protestant and Atheist infiltration of the tiny Catholic country.

But when the EEC was formed in 1957 and the senior authority was integrated Luxemburg made a big noise. It demanded that it should be allowed to keep the thousand officials who brought money with them. The rest of Europe gave in.

And so one thousand officials of the EEC and three general-directors' offices remained in Luxemburg. And twice a year, it was agreed, the Council of Ministers must meet in Luxemburg. So the whole caboodle has to be shifted from Brussels to the Grand Duchy, lorryloads of files, statistics and what-have-you, just so that Luxemburg's businessmen can be kept happy.

And finally the secretariat of the Strasbourg Parliament remained in Luxemburg. This too has to be shifted for one week in every month — bags are packed with everything but the kitchen sink and officials and secretaries make for Strasbourg.

Why does it have to be this way? For no other reason than that people want to make private gain from EEC business. National ambitions rear their ugly head again.

The European Parliament meets in Strasbourg so that France can have its share of the EEC goodies. So the one organisation has three meeting places and tomorrow this may be increased to four or five if the British and Danes want to have a share of the European business booster.

The only practical solution to this mess would be to move all business to one place, the obvious choice being Brussels.

Mockingly and with superior airs the political leaders of the nation States talk of the rule of the technocrats in Brussels, the Eurocrats. They would like to see more democratisation. And yet it is they who prevent the EEC having a democratic basis. The Strasbourg Parliament is hard-working, but it is condemned to be powerless. The EEC Commission presents the Parliament with a draft Bill. The Parliament debates it, makes amendments and returns it in the form of a resolution. Then the Commission is free to pay heed to the amendments or ignore them.

Whatever it decides, it then passes the Bill on to the Council of Ministers. This passes it on yet again to the experts on an official level. If these experts cannot agree on it then the measure could lie there gathering dust for ten years.

If they do agree the resolution is then passed on to the ambassadors. Now the real tussle begins. These ambassadors are the most hard-working people in the whole EEC setup. If they reach agreement the resolution passes the Council of Ministers as a matter of form.

But the Parliament no longer has any influence over what comes of its suggestions. National considerations and officials exercise a stronger influence. The Strasbourg parliament is a democratic fig-leaf designed to cover up the nationalism and egoism of the individual EEC States.

Walking through the EEC Centre in Brussels is not an encouraging experience. Europe cannot be created from the EEC in its present form. Not until the EEC acquires power and sovereignty can it become popular among the people.

The masses can only see that prices are rising and they blame the EEC for this. In reality the EEC has been a major factor in the general European prosperity. But this point has never been made clearly enough. It has always been national governments that have won the laurels.

Joachim Besser
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 1 June 1972)

Enlarged EEC living standards

per 1,000 inhabitants

	Cars	TV	Telephones
France	245	201	161
West Germany	234	262	212
Denmark	219	250	328
Belgium	215	207	200
Britain	213	284	253
The Netherlands	200	223	242
Norway	193	207	283
Italy	187	170	160
Eire	122	153	98
For comparison USA	432	399	567

The rich and the poor in the EEC

Gross national product divided on average among the population in dollars (estimated)

Richest area: Hamburg $4,773
Poorest area: Calabria $ 756
Amsterdam, THE NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, Brussels, Bremen, FRG, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Paris, LUXEMBURG, Munich, Stuttgart, West Berlin, FRANCE, Milan, Marseilles, ITALY, Rome
Over $3,000 / 2,001–3,000 / 1,500–2,000 / under $1,500

Labour laws

Continued from page 5

try of Labour after conducting a survey that was the first of its type in the Federal Republic.

The survey came to the conclusion that trainees just joining a firm try to do a normal day's work and thus identify themselves with the concern. They can get so used to this that they look upon violations of laws governing their protection as legitimate. Young workers believe later, that bad conditions cannot be altered. They are then not normally prepared to defend their rights.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 9 June 1972)



■ MOTORING

Emergency services on the roads get dearer and dearer

Two thousand five hundred road deaths a year could be averted and countless people saved from chronic disablement if only the ambulance service were extended all over the country," Professor Gögler of Heidelberg University Hospital's department of surgery said at a "Press and Police" conference held by the Police Federation on board the *SS Koblenz*.

The Professor estimated the annual losses sustained by the economy as a result of preventable road deaths to be in the region of 750 million Marks.

In all accidents involving danger to life and limb prompt action must be taken and it must be the right action. Dialling 110, the nationwide emergency number, only has the required effect in 1,420 of the total 3,800-odd telephone exchanges.

The introduction of 110 as the emergency number everywhere is urgently necessary, as was shown by a recent fatal accident on the B 8 trunk road near Siegburg, on the opposite bank of the Rhine to Bonn.

A lorry ran over a little girl. Someone dialled 110 but there was no reply. The local police arrived on the scene a quarter of an hour later but the ambulance did not put in an appearnace until fifty minutes after the accident had occurred, by which time the little girl was dead.

But there is more to a meaningful extension of the ambulance service than the introduction of a uniform emergency dialling code. Emergency phones must be installed alongside all autobahns and trunk roads, dialling 110 must be free of charge, ambulance posts must be established on a nationwide basis with trained crews, emergency doctors and an adequate fleet of ambulance vehicles, control centres must be set up to supervise rescue operations and be linked by radio and more ambulance crews and emergency doctors must be trained to decide for themselves at a glance whether an accident victim can be taken straight into hospital or needs immediate treatment to keep his circulation going or his heart pumping.

The sum total of all these necessary measures will cost an estimated 590 million Marks. Annual operational costs will amount to six pfennigs per head of the population.

It is clear that organisations such as the Red Cross, which have so far shouldered virtually the entire burden of emergency and ambulance services, cannot raise sums of this kind. Where, then, is the money to come from?

Medical and ambulance services are, constitutionally, the responsibility of the Federal states and local authorities. The Federal government merely exercises overall supervisory powers.

Within the scope of the Conveyance of Passengers Act regulations concerning the conveyance of patients and injured persons can nonetheless be introduced and legislation is already in the pipeline to establish nationwide criteria for the training of ambulance crews.

To judge by the draft the ambulance officer will have to be something of a genius. He must know more than a hospital nurse and almost as much as a fully trained emergency doctor. He must be able to judge for himself what immediate action to take – action, one hardly need add, that will often enough be a matter of life or death for the hapless accident victim.

This is why ambulance crews are to serve a two-year training period, a year of which will be spent in hospital attached to the anaesthetist.

Ambulance service legislation in genotal, however, is a matter for the Federal states and the time has come, Professor Gögler feels, for action rather than words.

As soon as possible ambulances must be on call in every town and village in the country round the clock, with ambulance crews and emergency doctors in attendance.

The various health insurance schemes ought, it is suggested, to foot 25 per cent of the bill and the remainder must be met by the Federal states and local authorities, the states paying seventy per cent and the local authorities thirty.

An effective nationwide ambulance service is urgently needed and calls for action must no longer go virtually unheeded. Cologne provides an example of the improvements that can be achieved. Since the introduction of adequate ambulance facilities in the city the percentage of accident victims who have died before reaching hospital has declined from twelve to one.

At the conference accident prevention measures, particularly in road traffic, were also discussed. Motorists, it was felt, must learn to adopt a more Samaritan approach. In particular they must learn to leave their car where it is when they have had too much to drink.

Five thousand people a year die as a result of drunken drivers taking to the wheel and 5,000 is an alarming number. If only as many drivers as possible had a sound idea of what can happen when they drink and drive they would no longer pride themselves on having driven home regardless.

Jochen Dilling of the Federal Road Research Institute in Cologne is of the opinion that in the long run more and more parking facilities cannot be provided for festivals of one kind and another.

Plans for a speed limit of 100 kilometres an hour (62.5 mph) on trunk roads other than autobahns met with a mixed reception. Professor Gögler maintained that the government would be making an ass of itself because it could not enforce the speed limit in any case. On balance the effect on traffic would be adverse.

Spokesmen for the Federal Ministry of Transport and the police, on the other hand, feel that the speed limit w... induce many motorists to drive ... sensibly. The number of accidents ... not decrease, they reckoned, but ... dents would tend no longer to be quite serious.

Some limits must be imposed, Mini... and police officials maintain. Other... the demands made on the indivi... motorist's sense of responsibility w... be too extreme.

The Police Federation and W... Kühlmann, its president, deserve a ... of congratulation for having ... representatives of the Press to disc... range of problems that are urgently ... need of solution. *Hans Berenb...*

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 8 June ...)

Transport Minister plans to make safety belts compulsory

Safety belts will soon be manda... for all motor vehicles, Trans... Minister Georg Leber announced ... June in Frankfurt on his return from ... week-long stay in the United States.

Starting this autumn an amendment ... to be made to motor vehicle speci... tions making the equipping of all cars with safety belts compulsory. A... an "appropriate" transitional period ... regulation is to be extended to all vehi... on the road.

At Rhine-Main airport, Frankfurt, ... Minister stated that a safety belt has ... been developed that complies with ... conceivable requirements in respect ... tensile strength and ease of handling.

This or a comparable belt wou... made mandatory. Motorists whose ... are already equipped with safety ... may well have to buy new ones in ... to comply with the new regulations.

It was, he added, up to the moto... themselves whether or not they fasten ... their safety belts. They could hardly ... ordered to do so.

In the course of his visit to Transpo... the international transport exhibition ... Washington, Herr Leber claimed to ha... been strengthened in his conviction th... traffic problems in conurbations ... in the long run be solved by ... motoring. All over the world ... transport will gain the upper hand.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 5 June ...)

Demands for stricter measures against drunken drivers increase

At a Bundestag hearing doctors, judges, statisticians and criminologists have called for even stricter sanctions against drunken drivers than the Federal government plans to introduce with its proposed reduction of the level at which a driver is deemed to be under the influence of drink from 130 to eighty milligrammes of alcohol per unit of blood.

Views may have diverged widely on details of the reliability of the breathalyser and other methods of checking a suspect's degree of drunkenness but observers in Bonn noted to their suprise that for once parliamentarians and specialists were agreed on a joint legislative draft. The Bill in question recently passed its first reading in the Bundestag.

In the amendment to the Road Traffic Act the maximum permissible alcohol count is, then, to be reduced from 130 to eighty milligrammes. Motorists whose blood alcohol count is found to be between these two figures are deemed to have committed a civil (rather than criminal) offence and are liable to a fine of up to 1,000 Marks and a driving ban of up to three months.

Motorists with a blood alcohol count of more than 130 milligrammes will continue to be considered unfit to drive a motor vehicle and are liable to criminal proceedings resulting in a driving ban and a prison sentence.

At least 4,000 road deaths a year are due to drunken driving. At the Bundestag hearing a statistician estimated that 21 per cent of road deaths came into this category. By and large, though, this percentage was considered to be a little on the conservative side.

Fifteen per cent of all traffic accidents are caused by motorists with a blood alcohol count of between eighty and 120 milligrammes, this being the category affected by the proposed amendment.

"There is no absolutely sure method of determining the level of alcohol in the blood," according to Professor Lundt of the Federal Health Authority, but the methods at present in use are, he continued, accurate to within a tolerance level of 0.15.

In other words, motorists stand to forfeit both their licences and a sizeable sum of money as soon as the amount of alcohol in their blood reaches 65 milligrammes.

The breathalyser, Professor Lundt maintained, is only a rough and ready guide, there being limits to the conclusions that can be derived from the suspect's breath. This point of view was, however, contested by other specialists.

Professor Helfer of Bonn, a medical man, made mention of the difficulties involved in reconstructing the level of blood alcohol at the time of the accident from a test taken some hours afterwards. Motorists are more or less free to cook the books, as it were. The larger the court appearance looms the more vigorously they will claim that next to no time elapsed between the accident and the taking of the blood sample.

The rule of thumb is that the level of alcohol in the blood declines at a rate of ten milligrammes an hour but in order to circumvent the problems that arise in this connection the hearing gave its blessing to a proposal formulated by Professor Grüner of Kiel.

"It is illegal to drive a motor vehicle on the public highways with a blood alcohol count of eighty milligrammes or more or a concentration of body alcohol corresponding to this level."

This reference to body alcohol as opposed to the government proposal based solely on blood alcohol makes it easier to determine the level in detail.

Everyone was agreed on the danger a drunken driver represented. Attentiveness declines from a blood alcohol count of thirty milligrammes on – perceptibly so. By the time the level reaches eighty milligrammes the motorist's reactions have lessened twenty per cent.

He overestimates his own capabi... and is no longer able to judge accur... the traffic situation at the time. ... drunken driver acts irresponsibly.

Professor Werner Janssen of Hamburg, a forensic scientist, echoed the majori... viewpoint in saying that motorists we... no longer able to judge for themselv... whether or not they had reached ... critical level of 65 milligrammes.

The logical conclusion from this ... ment is that drinking and driving shou... be banned altogether, since even a ... schnapps could be one too many.

Hermann Roer, the Hamburg patho... logist, also argued in favour of ... introduction of an upper limit of ... milligrammes. He outlined the follow... rule of thumb for motorists to work ... for themselves when they have ... stepped this mark. Taking a mean body weight of 154 lb motorists can afford ... drink a maximum of one glass of ... wine or schnapps an hour.

This view was seconded by Profes... Richard Lange, the Colog... criminologist, who stated that ... countries had found an upper limit ... either fifty or eighty milligrammes to ... satisfactory, accident figures having ... clined as a result.

Specialists remain at a loss as to wh... to do about drugs, however. Medi... preparations and narcotics are dangerous enough as it is. In conjunction wi... alcohol they represent a danger to li... and limb. *Peter Gillies*

(Die Welt, 10 June 197...)



THE ARTS

Museums are in urgent need of financial assistance

Museums and other cultural amenities in West Germany have been spotlighted more frequently in recent months as discussions turn to the question of public subsidies for theatres, museums and libraries.

Would it not be more sensible to build more schools, hospitals and kindergartens, people ask. Would it not be better to spend more money on preventing water and air pollution instead of pumping millions of Marks into institutions from which only a minority benefit?

Politicians must supply the final answer to this question but the public will and must form its own opinions about social priorities. Present expenditure on cultural institutions must thereby be considered.

"The position of the museums," Andreas Lommel, head of the Munich Ethnological Museum, states, "is better than their reputation and better than they deserve."

This unorthodox opinion – as Lommel himself is only too ready to admit – stands in direct contrast to everything that has been said and written about West German museums in recent years.

The sad state of museums was confirmed by the Education and Science Council in 1965, the West German National Committee of the International Museum Council in 1966, the West German Museums Association in 1967, the Education Ministers Conference in 1969 and the West German Research Association in 1971. Similar oral and written statements by museum heads could be listed ad infinitum.

When people refer to "the museums" they are normally only referring to the large, internationally-reputed institutes such as the Munich Pinakothek, Frankfurt's Städel, the Wallraf-Richartz Museum in Cologne or Hamburg Art Gallery. They may also include the large museums for applied art, ethnology and Far Eastern art. But these museums only form the tip of the iceberg.

The two-volume Museum Handbook recently published by Verlag Dokumentation, Munich, lists for the first time all museums and similar institutes in West Germany, East Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

According to this guide, there are more than 1,500 museums and collections in West Germany and West Berlin, distributed over 850 towns. But museums of international standing only form a fraction of this figure. Local history museums are the most common group with their documents and exhibits illustrating the history of a town or region.

But the large variety of special museums devoted to one person – a poet or composer for example – a sect, a product, trade or branch of industry must not be underestimated.

It seems as if imagination knows no bounds when it comes to collecting exhibits for a museum. There are for example two salt, bread, tobacco and cigar museums. Other museums feature old typewriters, weighing-scales, shields, carburettors, Bibles, clocks, cutlery or tapestries.

The large number of institutions rightly or wrongly describing themselves as museums are matched only by the large number of backers and types of finance. Apart from Federal states, towns, local districts, universities and tourist associations which mainly run their museums from tax revenue, there are also private individuals and private associations, firms and foundations that finance a museum.

The Karl May published company for instance runs a museum in Bamberg in memory of Karl May, the popular German writer of Westerns. Bizerba have set up a weighing-scales museum in Balingen, Baden-Württemberg.

Most private museums work on a shoe-string budget though this is also true for many of the museums that are financed by public money. The Kneipp Museum in Bad Wörishofen had a budget of 2,500 Marks this year while the 140-year-old local history museum in Neuburg on the Danube had just under six thousand Marks at its disposal. More than two thirds of this sum came from the town itself.

Collections with small budgets are an exception. But it would be quite objective to estimate that the majority of West German museums have to manage on a five-figure or low six-figure budget.

Museums of this type do not feature much in public discussions. Controversy surrounds the richer, more expensive museums with a budget amounting to millions of Marks and exhibits worth even more.

Düsseldorf Kunstmuseum is being allowed to spend 1.92 million Marks this year while Wuppertal's Von der Heydt Museum and Bremen Art Gallery have 1.4 millions at their disposal.

Cologne Art Gallery and the seven museums in the city are able to spend over 12.9 million Marks and the fourteen museums belonging to the Prussian Cultural Possessions Foundations in West Berlin have more than 23 millions.

Money for most large museums of international standing in West Germany and West Berlin usually comes from city or Federal state sources. Most museums also have a steady income from the sale of tickets, catalogues and postcards.

Subsidies often come from the government, Federal states, foundations such as those run be Volkswagen and Thyssen and from the profits of lotteries and broadcasting companies.

Private donations to West German museums are rare. There are indeed people who support the Armed Forces Museum in the small Lower Saxony village of Harber – set up in 1968, the museum depends on donations – but patrons of the fine arts with a penchant for museums are few and far between.

Normally in this country it depends on the contacts and persuasive powers of museum heads whether and if so to what extent they can attract cash donations from rich art-lovers. This is usually only possible when the museum plans to buy a specific work.

What is more usual, though not so popular as it cannot be deducted from a person's tax, is the donation of paintings, sculptures or other works of art. Loans are also made temporarily or on a permanent basis.

Museum budgets have increased in the last ten years despite the fact that museums have no lobby working for them and are therefore liable to be overlooked when subsidies are handed out.

But the growth rate of these increases varies widely. Frankfurt's Städel and Aachen's Suermondt Museum have almost three times as much money at their disposal as they did ten years ago.

State museums in Berlin register an increase of 158 per cent while the Von der Heydt Museum in Wuppertal and even the Richard Wagner Memorial Centre in Bayreuth each have a growth rate of 124 per cent. Hamburg's Ethnological Museum on the other hand only has thirty per cent more money now than it did in 1962.

Wuppertal's Von der Heydt Museum and Bremen Art Gallery are two of the few large museums that can still budget for considerable contributions from private individuals and foundations. In the case of Wuppertal, donations make up 310,000 Marks of the total budget of 1.4 million. That works out at about one fifth.

What do museums spend their money on? The answer is obvious when it is considered that museums need a lot of staff. The lion's share of expenditure is swallowed up by staff costs in all but a few museums.

Academically-qualified staff such as museum heads and other art historians make up only a small fraction of the total staff figure. Most staff costs go on secretaries, restorers, librarians, curators, charladies, nightwatchmen and ticket and catalogue sellers.

The realities of the political situation make it appear probable that museum budgets would have increased only slightly if at all in recent years if there had not been such a large proportion of staff costs in the total expenditure figures.

Subsidies have not risen at the same rate as staff costs in many cases. Wages and salaries made up 39.4 per cent of the total budget of state museums in Berlin in 1962 and 47.7 per cent in 1971.

Almost all museum heads believe that staff costs will have to be even higher: the existing treasures are not only to be preserved and shown to the public but also scientifically analysed. This should really be done as a matter of course.

At many museums, some of which are still suffering from the consequences of the Second World War, this is not possible because of staff reasons and this is tantamount to financial reasons.

The money available prevents many museum heads from having any room for manoeuvre when wanting to purchase works of art. Krefeld's Kaiser Wilhelm Museum, well-known for its commitment to contemporary art, was allowed to spend only 52,500 Marks on works of art and literature in 1971. When it is known what work catalogues and art monographs alone cost today, it is impossible to entertain any illusions about the museum's purchasing power.

But the situation is not everywhere as bad as it is in Krefeld. Düsseldorf Kunstmuseum spent almost 550,000 Marks on works of art in 1971, Bremen Art Gallery 391,000 Marks, the Städel more than half a million and Duisburg's Lehmbruck Museum a good three hundred thousand Marks.

But museums are in a better position as regards purchasing power than they are in another sphere – that of advertising. Advertising is achieving greater and greater significance in the technological age but most museums simply have no money to spend on it. They therefore limit their advertising to the traditional methods: exhibitions and catalogues.

A lot more must de done here in order to draw museums from their social isolation and implant them in the minds of a broader section of the public.

The number of people visiting museums has indeed increased in recent years – more than sixteen million visitors were recorded in 1970 – and some museums have had enormous growth rates in this respect – Cologne's museums for instance had three times as many visitors in 1971 as in 1961 – but the ratio between costs and number of visitors shows that this trend must be encouraged in some places.

A total of 48 Marks is spent for every visitor to the Düsseldorf Kunstmuseum but visitors to Cologne's museums only cost an average of 9.60 Marks. That may have a lot to do with the varying standards of the museums but public relations work must also play a role.

Museum heads should therefore approach the appropriate departments and ask for more money to be spent on advertising. The more the public is interested in its museums and their treasures the more understanding there will be when these museums need money.

Heidi Dürr

(Die Zeit, 19 May 1972)

Kassel's *documenta* is as ambitious as ever

An extensive retrospective view of "photographic realism" and the artistic movements that have come from the West Coast of America in recent years will be offered by *documenta 5* in Kassel from 30 June to 8 October. This year's documenta goes under the general title "questioning reality – the world of art today".

Latest details show that the United States will understandably have the largest contingent, providing 83 of the total of 170 contributors from thirteen countries. The second largest contingent will be the Federal Republic's 29 artists.

More than 1,000 items, pictures, sculptures, art objects and action works, will be on show in the Fridericianum Museum in the Neue Galerie and in the open around these galleries. They will be classified as Realism, Individual Mythologies, Self Portraiture, Idea Art and Process Art, Participation and Performance.

Unfortunately too many applications for exhibition have been made and selection will be necessary so that there will not be any direct confrontation of original and art-work and it will only be possible to provide an anthology rather than a complete encyclopaedia of the world of art.

Many of the artists whose work will be on show have agreed to turn up in Kassel, including Joseph Beuys with his Düsseldorf office for non-voters, Ben Vautier with his programme of permanent flux, Vito Acconci as one of the main representatives of the "Body workers" movement, Gilbert & George as "Singing Sculpture", Klaus Rinke with his primary demonstrations and Herzfeld/Verhufen with "Arbeitszeit".

A further and most important section is devoted to parallel pictorial worlds and takes in investigations into Utopia, Science Fiction, Kitsch, Advertising, Paintings by Mental Patients, Political Propaganda and Religious Art.

An "audio-visual foreword" is to be provided as an introduction to documenta at which, co-organiser Professor Hans Heinz Holz says, art is not intended to be presented in isolation but within the scope of the visual culture of the present day. This foreword has been prepared by Professor Bazon Brock.

A large wall divided into twelve sections by pictures with a programme that will change four times on each day of the exhibition is designed to prepare the public for perception of reality.

Other projects have had to be scrapped or curtailed through lack of funds now that the original budget of 5.5 million Marks has been cut back to 3,480,000.

At the film festival between 30 June and 4 July the main accent will be on New American Cinema with works by Landow, Snow, Sharits, Anger, Jack Smith and Andy Warhol among others.

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 20 May 1972)

CINEMA

Hamburg Film Festival shows films can still be fun

In Hamburg there is now evidence that even the people who make films are flesh-and-blood human beings. To be more precise this fact is now in evidence since that date last year when the previously gloomy Hamburg Film Festival moved to the Abaton Cinema.

Since then the Festival has been a family occasion for filmmakers, a comfy, cosy thing, free from pressures and ideological tensions. The new concept has been drawn up intelligently and with an eye to reconciliation and cooperation so that a new cinema audience can be attracted and once again it has been successful.

The fact-finding and discussion side of the Festival took place outside the official framework, or to be more precise in the neighbouring *Kinokneipe* (Cinepub). There the VIPs from the film world had visited the Festival met a public that was well informed and anxious to know more about technical matters.

This year there was no attempt to give a representative cross-section of the latest West German short and feature films, and for good reasons. The timing of the Festival had been brought forward from the autumn to the spring and time was too tight since the last Festival to collect sufficient films that were worthy of discussion.

Apart from this, films that had been included in the normal Abaton programme were left out out of consideration for local cinemagoers, a vital factor in this Festival, since the grant from the city authorities was a meagre 20,000 Marks.

Another wise decision was to include films that have already run on television such as Werner Schroeter's *Tod der Maria Malibran*, Rosa von Praunheim's *Leidenschaften* and *Macbeth*, Edgar Reitz's *Das goldene Ding* and Wim Wender's *Angst des Tormanns beim Elfmeter*. These were the main props of the German-language section.

There was a nice ironic return to the good old Action Cinema with the premiere of Rudolf Thome's latest film *Fremde Stadt*. This intelligent and amusing film made cinemagoing a pleasure once again after all the films where action was reduced to stunted vestiges. It is the story of a clever crook who pulls a great coup and disappears to a strange city with two million Marks in his pocket. He is hunted by the cops and colleagues from the underworld. At the end everyone is huddled together sharing out the spoils like brothers. The crook does not need to go to the jug. His penalty is to go home, back to his family as if nothing had happened.

In Thome's films imagination and reality are not mutually exclusive, but the two categories are closely linked together. With gay abandon he swaps clichés and reality and vice versa and thus creates an atmosphere from which unsettling irony and this strange kind of tension emerge.

Thome's love of perfection has already led to his being criticised for perfectionism and making his works far too entertaining. This is quite unjust. Where is it stated that the cinema should no longer be a means of entertainment?

Being starved of a large supply of new German films the Fifth Hamburg Film Festival made a virtue of necessity. It took a selection from the New American Cinema, which, though non-representative, was highly informative and showed the influence this has exercised on the European underground film world. This was the great attraction of this year's festival.

When the young American P. Adams Sitney first showed films from the New American Cinema in Munich in 1964 they were a sensation. And they have remained sensational with works by Stan Brakhage, Robert Breer, Kenneth Anger, Ed Emshwiller, the Kuchars, Gregory Markopoulos, Jonas Mekas, Paul Sharits and Andy Warhol.

The last time an overall look at underground films was possible was in December 1967 in Knokke at the Fourth International Experimental Film Contest. Since then there has only been incomplete information leaking out, such as was provided in a most respectable form by the Hamburg Film Festival.

Among the films shown were works by Hollis Frampton, Michael Snow, Joyce Wieland, Paul Sharits, Stan Brakhage, Andy Warhol, Kenneth Anger and Tony Conrad.

The prophet and spokesman of the New American Cinema, Jonas Mekas, was missing. So were other important names. But the information available was enough to give a good idea of the interaction of American and European underground films, as well as of the commercial cinema on the two continents.

This was particularly clearly presented in the case of the so-called Expanded Cinema, whose main representatives in Europe are Peter Weibel and Valie Export. But it also applied to the narrative and poetic films of Steve Dwoskin, Werner Nekes, Klaus Schönherr and Dore O.

The reaction of the audience which were of necessity not used to this kind of cinema was enlightening. On the first two or three nights they quickly lost patience with the unusual, irritating and tiring sequences of pictures and denounced them as an optical and acoustic piece of cinematic terror. But they kept on coming.

The difficult form of the films by Wilhelm and Birgit Hein – dual projection dealing with the problems of perception – almost made the audience give up and almost caused the screening to be broken off. And yet two days later at the no less difficult films of Werner Nekes and Dore O. they were disciplined and waited patiently. Patience when faced with the unknown, as was seen in Hamburg, need not pay off, but it often does.

Uta Gote

(Die Welt, 6 June 1972)



Karin Thome and Roger Fritz in Rudolf Thome's *Fremde Stadt*

(Photo: Rolf Thome)

Fassbinder's new film
Warning about a holy whore

It is not the film that a team is planning to make in Almeria in the west of Spain (Fassbinder's *Whity* has not yet appeared on the cinema circuits) but films as a whole that are the "holy whore" who entices her creator, makes him sick, fascinates him, confuses him and never satisfies him.

The one-time head of the anti-theatre who is in Spain for the first time, working with large equipment in new dimensions, made this film *Warnung vor einer heiligen Nutte* (Warning about a holy whore) about the making of a film and the private difficulties of the cast, a strange, disturbing film with scenes of mercilessness, characteristic of the candid confessions of Rainer Werner Fassbinder verging on exhibitionism.

There is a film team waiting in the hotel lounges and on the chairs in the luxury Spanish hotel, waiting for the director, for the films that have not been delivered because the money has run out and for the cheques issued in Germany to be covered.

They are a bohemian crowd with the weaker members being treated with that very brutality against which the film they have planned is supposed to be aimed. Humanity is forgotten among cries of "cuba libre" and filthy obscenities. A barren waste of life stretches out ahead in which the only oasis is alcohol, the only oasis that is sought is sex, at a homosexual as well as hetero level (the film only implies this and does not go into dreary bedroom scenes).

Everyone waits for the animal trainer to crack his whip. In place of Fassbinder the dramatically more attractive Lou Castel does the whip cracking, dressed in the characteristic leather jacket.

For Fassbinder clear observation and feel as opposed to dry analytical thinking are the essentials of his work. In this case he is drawing his material from experiences he gathered from early in his career and he can thus say far more than anyone who intends to throw light on the subject by means of theory.

He sees himself and depicts himself as a bloke who is without inhibitions, authoritarian, high-handed, treats those he works with according to his mood of the moment and who is subject to his own sexual schizophrenia. He does have a touch of genius and allows a certain amount of freedom to his actors, but at the same time makes them feel his power in an extortionate and violent manner. He does not miss an opportunity to bring them down and at the same time turns his own thoughts of flight into (not serious) offers of partnership and a trip to South America, a constant enticement for Fassbinder.

Hysteria is all around. Hate for the suppressed is always mixed with respect for the idea of working together.

Even Eddie Constantine, who at first pleads for a gentlemanly revaluation of his main role, finally is made to act against his will and strike a woman.

The brokenness of human relationships shines through all the clichéed outbursts of passion. The artificiality of this reality shines a light on the dubiousness that surrounds the inclusion of unformed reality into art.

Those who know creative artists of any kind and not only filmmakers, those who have sensed the nervousness of those who are successful, those who know the tensions that build up within such artistic communities will recognise in this film with horror the depths of despair, the horrific fear of resignation, the new yet firmly rooted forms of pressure.

Fassbinder's honesty has never been in doubt and he has made something more than the psychological portrait of a film team. He has given us a glimpse of the modern world of art, that perhaps will later be recognised as a contribution to the cinematic history of this epoch.

Effi Horn

(Münchner Merkur, 2 June 1972)

EDUCATION

Lower Saxony plans to extend community studies

Questions of military and civil defence and peace and security policy should be subject to standardised guidelines in Lower Saxony's schools in future according to plans announced recently by the Federal state's Ministry of Education.

A Bill to this effect sets out the teaching aims of these subjects which will be included in community studies. This is Lower Saxony's answer to proposals made by Chancellor Willy Brandt to the prime ministers of the Federal states in November 1970.

The plans aim at granting security questions the place that the Lower Saxony government believes they should have in education. A ruling on this subject was already made in 1966 but as it was not published in the administrative bulletin nor phrased clearly enough this second ruling had to be drawn up.

The Education Ministry has avoided limiting the subject of security to the military sphere alone. The ruling lists a large number of desirable topics that can be used in teaching. If teachers adhered strictly to the ruling, community studies could be taken up by security and peace policy alone.

The Education Ministry does not want the subject to be treated in isolation but proposes that it should be developed simply and rationally from the whole context of society and politics.

The armed forces must be treated in the overall context of other State institutions. Defence policy should be discussed alongside domestic and foreign policy and the most recent findings of peace and conflict research should also be considered.

Among the aspects of foreign policy that the Education Ministry would like to see brought into the study of defence policy are the alliance system, the various social systems, power interests, problems of atomic armament, military balance, the strategy of deterrents, detente and disarmament.

To explain the causes of tension, the Ministry suggests that some explanation should be given of the problems of developing countries, the colonial revolution, Communism and imperialism. Pupils should also be told of the role social, nationalist or racial prejudice plays in the emergence of tension.

The demands made with regard to the domestic sector are no less demanding. Lessons should discuss the role of the various security forces (the police, border guards, Bundeswehr) and put across the idea of the "citizen in uniform". The differences between their roles in a democratic State and a dictatorship must also be pointed out.

The right of conscientious objection must be dealt with along with the links between military and civil defence and the role of the arms industry in scientific and industrial development.

Arguments should be strictly objective and avoid any emotionalism. Discussions with politicians, armed forces representatives, conscientious objectors and members of civil defence organisations would be useful, the Ministry believes, as they would give pupils better understanding. The new ruling also states that lessons of this type should not involve recruitment into certain professions.

The Education Ministry admits that teachers responsible for community studies do not have the necessary preparation for the new subjects. A bibliography of helpful literature is now being drawn up.

Special courses will also be arranged to acquaint teachers with the material. A Ministry spokesman states that it could take six months for the first changes in community studies to become evident.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 3 June 1972)

Academic proletariat unlikely

The Ministry of Education and Science, Bonn, has quashed fears that an excessive increase in the student population could lead to the formation of an academic proletariat in the Federal Republic within the next few years.

With 66 students per every ten thousand inhabitants the Federal Republic still lags behind countries such as Sweden (136), France (128) or Italy (97). While fourteen per cent of an age group were admitted to West German universities in 1969, the figure for France was 23 per cent and for Sweden 24 per cent.

But the government and the Joint Government-Federal States Educational Planning Commission believe that it is necessary to conduct more extensive examinations into the future demand for graduates.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 3 June 1972)

Armed forces propos[...] setting up their own universities

An armed forces university is to o[...] its doors at the army officers sch[...] in Wandsbek, Hamburg, in October 19[...] Officers who have signed on for at l[...] twelve years service will be able to t[...] three-year courses and obtain quali[...] tions in education, management and[...] number of technical subjects.

The initial intake will be five hun[...] though this figure will later be exte[...] to 2,500. A second armed forces [...] versity is planned for Neubiberg, Mu[...]

Defence Minister Helmut Schmidt [...] sonally obtained the approval of [...] Social Democrat group in Ham[...] House of Burgesses to go ahead wi[...] university scheme.

The Social Democrats, who ho[...] majority in the House of Burge[...] approved the Defence Ministry plans[...] special conference and recommended t[...] Senate, the government of the Fe[...] state of Hamburg, to encourage the w[...] of the armed forces university by re[...] nising the diplomas that were to[...] awarded there. The syllabus and exam[...] tions must match up to normal [...] versity standards however.

Hamburg University announced i[...] opposition to the armed forces's p[...] some time ago. It believes that [...] officers' academic study, as desirable [...] is, could also take place at the [...] University.

The Hamburg branch of the Educ[...] and Science Trade Union stated the[...] establishment of an armed forces [...] versity did not help the armed fo[...] integration into society. These u[...] sities could, it claimed, develop [...] elitist institutes preaching specific ide[...] gies.

Dieter Stäcle[...]

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 6 June 1[...])

MEDICINE

Politics not health dominated Westerland medical congress

It was hoped that the 75th Medical Congress in Westerland would reach unanimity when discussing health questions, contemporary medical problems and the medical profession of the future. But things turned out differently. Though the medical profession looks united enough to the outsider the problems involved in the "Freedom for Doctor and Patient" campaign revealed many disagreements.

"The Freedom for Doctor and Patient Campaign is a good idea," one delegate commented during a heated debate about whether or not the campaign should be given official approval. "But it had a difficult birth."

Westerland's Kursaal erupted when one of the speakers at the 75th Medical Congress being held there attacked Dr Scholmer, a fierce critic of the medical profession's policy on questions of health and the profession as a whole. "Dr. Scholmer is no Communist," the speaker said, "but he is dangerous as his beliefs are being adopted by a large number of politicians."

Attacks against left-wingers in their own ranks and a reminder of the medical profession's standing was meant to lead to unanimous approval of measures already taken by doctors.

But the over-simplified and propagandist slogans employed had not met with the undivided consent of all medical associations even before the Medical Congress began.

Professor Fromm wanted to achieve *solidarity after the* event when he called upon the Medical Congress to recognise the campaign and approve in particular of a pamphlet that the hard political core of the Marburg League bluntly described at the congress as harmful.

There then followed a wrangling on points of order and procedure that was not exactly one of the most glorious debates in the history of the Medical Congress.

A resolution was then passed — 68 delegates voted against it and eighteen abstained — that carefully patched up the splits in the medical profession by giving concealed recognition to the Freedom for Doctor and Patient Campaign.

It had therefore become clear that doctors could neither advance nor retreat. Senior members of the medical associations had all too hastily called for opposition to restrictions on the freedom of the medical profession and used out-of-date slogans.

When this "difficult birth" had to be ratified by the Medical Congress, Professor Fromm commented: "We simply had to do something. And you cannot be particular about the methods you employ. Believe me, I am an old tactician in battles of this type."

But Fromm's speech did not rouse delegates to more than mild applause. He concentrated on defending the medical profession and outlining its past achievements and did not mention what future health policy would bring.

The two-day congress and the many hours of unprofitable debate led to a resolution that is mainly the result of conservative pressure. Decisions on the role and problems of doctors were forced into the background. No proposals were passed on health policy — this important item of planning was passed on to the next Medical Congress.

Important issues such as the administration of hospitals and their medical services, university reform as it affects medical faculties, cooperation between hospitals and doctors with their own practice, tests for pharmaceutical products and the problems of drug abuse also figured on the agenda but they were only mentioned in more or less short resolutions.

Professor Fromm did not even manage on the final day to hold out any prospect that the medical profession would modernise itself in order to match up to future demands.

Discussions on the campaign — which Fromm practically turned into a vote of confidence — exhausted the tactical skills of this otherwise brilliant debater. The reactions of this luckless defender of medical solidarity were compared outside the congress hall to those of an offended diva.

But 45,000 doctors have already put forward their names in support of the Freedom for Doctor and Patient Campaign and donated money towards it. Doctors demanding the preservation of the medical profession's current standing were in the majority at the Medical Congress.

But storm clouds loomed large over Westerland — the exposures made in a *Spiegel* series on the medical profession manifestly shook traditional medical solidarity.

Joachim W. Reifenrath

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 7 June 1972)

Intestinal cancer tests

Wiesbaden Diagnostic Clinic and the Barmer Ersatzkasse insurance company are currently examining a new method enabling the early diagnosis and treatment of intestinal cancer.

Large-scale experiments started at the end of February under Dr R. Gnauck, a gastroenterologist at the Diagnostic Clinic. Fourteen hundred insurance company members in he Wiesbaden area are being used as guinea pigs.

As in the early recognition of diabetes, a test strip is used to examine excrement for concealed quantities of blood which could point to intestinal cancer.

The first scientific analysis of the experiment can be expected within the next few months. Almost twenty thousand men and women died of intestinal cancer in West Germany last year.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 24 May 1972)

Heart disease symposium in Frankfurt

Frankfurt was recently the venue of an international symposium on heart disease attended by 250 scientists from Europe and the United States. Treatment and diagnosis were discussed along with the possibilities of employing surgery to guard against heart attacks and provide help in acute cases.

A number of methods were put forward to follow the flow of blood through the heart and recognise blockages before they lead to infarction.

Three Hanover scientists provided the most important proof of the success of a surgical operation involving new arteries fitted in the heart.

A number of experiments on pigs — whose circulation system is similar to that of Man — showed that if a clot blocked a section of the heart for only three hours the strength of the blood flow in this area decreased by ten to thirty per cent. After five hours it had sunk to 20 to 35 per cent.

If an operation is carried out on this section three hours after the blockage — when infarction is acute — and circulation restored, the strength of the blood flow will pick up again by ten to twenty per cent.

Nitroglycerine treatment stands in almost complete contrast to the most up-to-date surgical aids used in acute cases of coronary disease. But it has met with unrivalled success since its adoption a century ago though researchers have still not been able to discover how it works. Notroglycerine takes effect within seconds. The heart is relaxed and its oxygen need drastically cut.

Although the Byk Gulden Lomberg firm of Konstanz made the whole symposium possible through its financial backing and awarded prizes for the best research work into the functioning of nitroglycerine, not much more can be said than that nitroglycerine obviously exerts its influence on various parts of the heart and circulation system due to a variety of factors.

Awards were given at the international symposium to Dr Bodo Eckehard Strauer of Göttingen Medical Clinic and Out-Patients, Dr Paul Lichten of Zürich, Dr Attilo Maserie of Pisa Physiological Hospital and Professor Martin Kaltenbach of Frankfurt.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 5 June 1972)

Boarding school for diabetic children opened

Almost two per cent of all West Germans are diabetics and in many cases the symptoms of the disease have been diagnosed in young people. The West German Diabetics Association speaks of problem children as it often proves difficult to treat the disease with drugs alone. The blood sugar level of diabetic children is usually subject to far greater variation than that of adults.

This constant variation in blood sugar level is of course dangerous and leads to a large number of hospital admissions. Children are unable to attend school with the result that they may have to repeat a year. Their education suffers at any rate and this may lead to repercussions in later life.

Young diabetics are above all problem children when parents are in no position to give them the guidance and care they need. Constant provision with drugs is as important as preventing the diabetic child from assuming the special position he or she often claims. Domestic problems have often resulted in diabetic children becoming social outcasts before they are very old.

A way out of this discouraging position is now being tested. The first boarding school for diabetic children opened its doors in Lüdenscheid on 1 June. It is a prototype for the whole of West Germany as it differs considerably from the already existing institutions that only give treatment over a short period.

The Lüdenscheid school, with its attractive three-bed rooms and places for a total of 32 children, was mainly the brainchild of one of this country's two hundred diabetologists. Dr Hoepker, head of a Lüdenscheid hospital, drew up the plans in cooperation with the Diabetics Association.

The thirty-thousand strong West German Diabetics Association does not call for special laws to aid diabetics. Diabetics must learn to stand on their own two feet. There are no regulations guaranteeing diabetics protection or help as there are for cancer or tuberculosis patients.

When Dr Hoepker took his plans for a boarding school to the Health Ministry in Bonn, officials were enthusiastic but they were unable to promise any grants. "Health policy is here left to doctors and hospitals," Dr Hoepker comments.

The boarding school is being run by a non-profit-making society that was established for this purpose. Only a little financial support comes from the West German Diabetics Association that is itself rather poor.

The fee is 28 Marks a day for any patients aged between twelve and twenty. As the sickness insurance schemes only pay in isolated instances, it is the social security departments that pay most of the costs.

"Twenty-eight Marks a day is extremely cheap as we doctors do not charge fees for our work," Dr Hoepker states. "I work here in my spare time together with a young doctor. The administrative apparatus is also free."

From the very beginning Dr Hoepker ruled out any chance of obtaining a building that the boarding school itself would own. A house owned by a religious order was therefore rented though the first payment need not be made until the beginning of next year.

Speaking of the plans for this prototype scheme, Dr Hoepker states: "Diabetics must be allowed to live like healthy people. So far West Germany has only had three homes for young diabetics and none of these were able to accommodate them for a long period or offer them courses under medical care and supervision allowing them to take their school-leaving examinations or gain qualifications for professional life. We plan to remedy this state of affairs in Lüdenscheid."

The boarding school staff consists of a thirty-year-old educationalist, a nursing sister and a group leader. Education is interpreted here as bringing up children to look after themselves at an early age. Teachers at other schools know about their diabetic pupils and cooperate.

Speaking of the aim of the experiment, Dr Hoepker says: "We want to bring up the young diabetic to overcome the disadvantages of his disease and if possible know more about it than doctors themselves."

Stefan Lehmacher

(Welt am Sonntag, 4 June 1972)

Potatoe praise

Potatoes have been described as an extraordinarily valuable vegetable nutrient by scientists at the Max Planck Institute for Nutritional Physiology in Dortmund.

The Institute organised extensive tests on potatoes that revealed potato protein to be as valuable as chicken protein and this possesses the highest biological efficacy.

Potatoes form an excellent diet for old people who require a lot of protein. One hundred grams of peeled potates contain only about 85 calories, roughly the calory content of a boiled egg. The belief that potatoes make people fat is unjustified from the nutritional and physiological point of view.

Potatoes also contain a relatively high vitamin C content though this decreases the longer they are stored. The high quantities of other vitamins contained in the potato — vitamins A and B1 for example — also decrease by eighty per cent if storage lasts from October to the following July.

(Welt am Sonntag, 4 June 1972)

■ OUR WORLD

Amateur magicians meet in Frankfurt

Hannoversche Allgemeine

More than 500 professional and amateur magicians met in Frankfurt for their annual congress. According to an ancient Egyptian papyrus, something like 4,500 years old, the first magician named Debi for a fee of 1,000 loaves, 1,000 jars of beer and 100 bunches of onions chopped off an ox's head and then magically replaced it. It is not surprising then that magicians claim that theirs is the oldest profession in the world.

The magician's art is not so old in West Germany. The *Magicians' Circle of Germany* was only founded sixty years ago in 1912. It now has something like 1,000 amateur members. The youngest is 16 and the oldest, still active, is over 85.

Professionally, amateur magicians work as dentists, teachers, business people, lawyers, bakers and executives. But nevertheless just like the professional magicians they stuff empty wallets with hundred-Mark notes, saw ladies in half, make carpets fly and a trunk full of rabbits disappear.

Only five per cent of amateurs ever decide to take the plunge and go professional. For the rest the magician's art is a hobby in which they invest annually anything from 50 to 500 Marks and with which they are able to give pleasure to any number of children and sick people.

According to the magicians themselves their art is self-devised and consists of adroitness and illusion. Anyone who is not possessed of two left hands can within a year master the basic rules of the magician's art. Anyone who wants to join any of the 42 magicians' associations in this country must first of all pass a test as an apprentice. The apprentice has to do three tricks that for the public at large would be convincing.

The magician's art has nothing to do with witchcraft – which is why so many people go home after a show just a little uneasy, because they have not been able to get to the bottom of the magician's secret.

The chief magician said in Frankfurt: "The more intelligent and well educated a person is the easier it is to bewitch him or her with our art – and I might add that the first commandment that any magician has to adher to is not to talk too much about the secrets of his art."

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 3 June 1972)



The old one – producing the rabbit from out of the hat. An amateur magician at work at the Frankfurt conference. (Photo: Barbara Klemm)

Cabbies demand no smoking in taxis

A mighty battle has been commenced in Cologne, between government leader Dr Günter Heidecke and the guild of taxi-drivers who are dead set against allowing their passengers to smoke while in their taxis.

Dr Heidecke has said that taxi-drivers run the threat of fines if they insist, as in a number of cases they have, that their fares do not smoke. The Cologne traffic office has been warned that fares should be allowed to smoke if they so wish.

But the taxi-drivers have not taken this lying down and have produced some cogent arguments in support of the smoking ban in taxis. Professor Schmidt of Mannheim has defended the taxi-drivers' position. The dense smoke from cigarettes is a threat to the driver's health.

But Cologne's taxi-drivers – there are 400 of them – like a cigarette but they do not like the smell of a different brand to their own. They are not only worried about this aspect of cigarette smoking but also about the damage that can be done to the upholstery and matting in their vehicles. They complain that fares burn holes in the expensive leather on the seats. To repair this damage it can cost as much as 300 Marks. Some fares, particularly those who have had a little to drink, are careless with their cigarettes and the stubs.

Most taxi-drivers don't mind when one person gets in the taxi and lights a cigarette, but when three get in and all three light up that is another matter.

One taxi-driver said angrily: "If a chap lights up and the smoke gets too much I shall open the windows and the sliding roof, no matter what the weather and I don't care a damn for what Dr Heidecke says."

Local government authorities are now involved in the battle with the taxi-drivers. Until now the law has stood on Dr Heidecke's side, pointing out that there are no regulations that give the taxi-driver the right to forbid his fare from smoking. When in doubt consider the freedom of action that is due to the fare.

A government spokesman commented that taxi-drivers are not in a position to lay down the law on what other people should or should not do. If fines are imposed the taxi-drivers' central organisation will go to court. *Hans Willenweber*

(Münchner Merkur, 6 June 1972)

Let the people fly

VFW-Fokker test-pilot Joachim Eisermann, 57, is dead set against the idea of flying being a sport for a privileged few. He would like more young people to participate in the sport, thinking of it not just as a sport but as a means of coming into closer contact with nature.

Eisermann is all for making flying more popular, taking away from it the idea of exclusivity. He has made a beginning in Bremen. Forty schoolchildren between 12 and 16 were taken up and given a bird's eye view of their home town. Eisermann said: "There are of course limits to teaching geography to young people in this way."

He continued: "We are now going out into the country and will try to interest teachers with our project."

Eisermann has drawn up definite plans. He said: "We would like to take children up on flights from the Weser-Wümme flying field so that they can learn about the geography of the region where they live. There are many landmarks whose significance children never realised until they see them from the standpoint of a bird's eye view."

But Mr Eisermann is not in any way engaged in a business project. The flights are at his own expense. For some time it has been possible to obtain a pilot's licence at the Wester-Wümme flying field at half the cost than elsewhere.

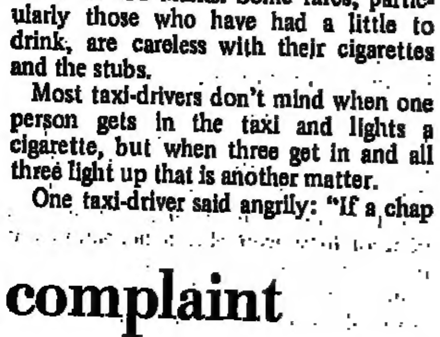
(Kieler Nachrichten, 2 June 1972)

Massaging complaint

Masseurs and masseuses are complaining that their competitors in the 'massage salons' that are springing up like mushrooms all over the country are massaging incorrectly and in the wrong places.

Qualified masseurs and masseuses are demanding that the State take some action against these establishments. Horst Kinkel, a spokesman for the Hesse branch of the Masseurs Association demanded that the appellation "masseur" and "masseuse" should be given legal protection from their charming competitors who day after day offer their 'exclusive' services through adverts in the press.

"We want our name legally protected,"



Herr Kinkel demanded at a protest meeting of masseurs and masseuses. He pointed out: "During our period of training we have to learn seven grips. These so-called exclusive masseuses only need to learn one."

A number of masseuses have expressed anxiety when asked to give a massage. They don't know what they will be expected to do.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 10 June 1972)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Average pay

According to trades unions the a[…] age wage for male workers in [t…] country at the end of 1971 was 1[…] Marks per months. This figure is ar[…] at by taking all payments includ[…] bonuses and dividing the total by [t…] number of white and blue-collar wo[…] excluding apprentices, who have a [j…] go to. Civil servants receive the [hi…] pay.

(Die Welt, 6 June […])

Shop-lifting up

The incidence of shop-lifting in St[…] gart has almost doubled over th[…] year forcing five supermarket chai[…] increase preventive measures drastic[…]

Stuttgart supermarkets intend, acc[…] ing to a spokesman, not only to h[…] shop-lifters charged in future but al[…] demand a 'handling fee' of twenty M[…]

The spokesman said that this [h…] become necessary because of the [en-]ormous increase in theft from su[…] markets and shops that now accoun[…] for one per cent of turnover.

Police statistics reveal that in [1…] there were 148,000 cases of shop-lif[…] throughout the Federal Republic. As [h…] ever thirty or forty shop-lifters are c[…] ed it is estimated that the annual [l…] must be in the region of one mi[…] Marks. Each shop-lifter, it is estim[…] makes off with on average betwee[…] and fifteen Marks work of goods.

Shoplifters come from all sectio[…] the community and favour operati[…] the afternoon and early evening [a…] weekends.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 6 June 1[…])

Popular allotments

The interest citizens in this coun[…] take in allotments have consider[…] increased recently, according to Rich[…] Beck, president of the West Ger[…] Allotment-Holders Association at a p[…] conference in Stuttgart.

One of the main reasons for this i[…] people want to grow their own 'unc[…] minated' fruit and vegetables not [r…] chemicals to produce better c[…] Richard Beck explained. Further[…] allotments are a good 'preve[…] medicine' and are important for peo[…] health, for pollution in our cities and[…] counteract the evils of modern indust[…] living.

There are something like 750,000 al[…] ments in the Federal Republic, includ[…] West Berlin, covering 300 million sq[…] metres of land. According to Herr B[…] forty to fifty per cent of the allotme[…] are on hire. The average size of a[…] allotment is 400 square meters.

(Neue Hannoversche Presse, 26 May 197[…])

Sea wives

Although many ship owners allow [t…] wives of their captains and othe[…] ship's officers to accompany their hus[…] bands on voyages to 'Rio and Shangh[…] very few take advantage of this oppo[…] unity. They cannot leave their chi[…] alone and have difficulty finding rela[…] or friends who are willing to look af[…] them for several weeks on end.

A few wives have decided to try [t…] remedy this situation. They have found[…] in Hamburg an organisation 'to promo[…] the possibility of wives accompanyi[…] their husbands on long sea voyages.' Th[…] wives will arrange to look after ea[…] other's children.

The 'self-help' programme will b[…] supra-regional and wives who are interes[…] ed have been invited to attend [a…] meeting in Hamburg.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 3 June 197[…])

■ SPORT

Strict checks for doping will be imposed at Munich Olympics

Doping checks at Munich will be more comprehensive, more detailed and tougher than ever before. A team of seven internationally known specialists – doctors and chemists – will have their work cut out making spot checks of up to three hundred Olympic athletes a day. Their truly Olympian feat will cost roughly two million Marks.

The expense and the organisational trouble that is being taken are ample evidence of the importance attached to drug-taking in sport today and the lengths to which the Olympic authorities are determined to go to ensure that there are no irregularities in the way of peak performances attributable to pep pills and narcotics.

The cost of the exercise also conveys some idea of the temptation to which athletes are continually subjected. Drugs can so easily be given them by officials and team doctors in order to boost national prestige by means of Olympic gold or a good rating among the runners-up.

The Schloder affair at Sapporo is still fresh in many people's minds. Schloder, the Landshut ice hockey international, was conclusively proved to have taken ephedrine or a preparation containing ephedrine.

Before entering into a general discussion of the entire topic let it first be noted that as a rule it is not the athletes themselves that take drugs; it is the team officials and doctors who permit, want and encourage the athletes to resort to drugs of one kind and another.

In Belgium, for instance, there is a commission whose sole function is to try to discover medicaments for Belgian racing cyclists that have the same effect as pep pills but that can either not be definitely identified or are not included in the official list of preparations classified as prohibited. This, at any rate, was claimed by Professor Ludwig Prokop at a recent lecture in Stuttgart.

Prokop is one of the seven drug watchdogs at Munich. He has not only been a feared and highly reputed specialist in the field for more than twenty years; he used himself to be an athlete.

Ludwig Prokop has six Austrian pentathlon championship titles to his name and represented his country at a number of European and world championships. His sister-in-law Liesel Prokop is one of the best women pentathlon specialists in the world and intends, after a break in her sporting career, to try her luck again at the forthcoming Munich Olympics.

Professor Prokop produced data that represent inside information even for specialists in drug-taking among athletes. They provided some indication of the international intensity with which work is carried on for and against doping.

The word itself is derived from a South African Kaffir dialect in which dope is a strong drink the natives imbibe prior to religious ceremonies and is designed to transform them into a state of ecstasy. The word was first picked up by the Boers and later assimilated into English.

It made its first appearance in an English dictionary in 1889 but the practice itself has been known far longer and can be traced back into antiquity, being mentioned by Philostratos.

In Ancient Rome the use of drugs to boost the performance of either horse or rider was strictly forbidden – at times even on pain of death.

In more recent times drugs very soon came to be known of in horse-racing, particularly in England (where the first recorded ban dates back to 1666!) and the United States.

As a rule arsenic was used. The first proof that dope had been used that stands up to present-day analytical criteria was provided in 1910 by the Vienna jockey club.

Russian doctor and chemist Bokovsky and later Professor Fraenckel specified the first detailed methods by which proof positive could be provided from analysis of a sample of the horse's saliva. Most winning horses, it turned out, were being drugged.

In 1934 a new era in doping began with the introduction of benzedrine and later pervitine. It is no use denying that every army in the world was well aware of the pep effect of preparations of this kind.

During night flying and other special duties in the Second World War units were deliberately dosed with pervitine and similar preparations in order to postpone the onset of tiredness and give the soldiers, sailors and airmen a pick-me-up.

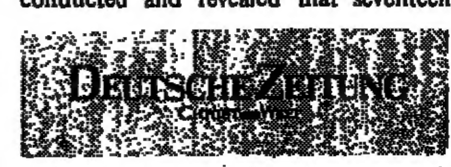
Every one of the preparations used during the War is now on the classified list but in those days, of course, the end justified the means.

After the War doping first really came into prominence among cyclists. The extent to which drugs were used by racing cyclists did not really come to light though, until 13 July 1967 when Tom Simpson, the top-flight English cyclist collapsed and died during the ascent of Mont Ventoux in the Tour de France.

The cause of Simpson's death was not a heat-stroke as had originally been supposed but a heart attack brought on by drugs he was unquestionably proved to have taken.

The death of Danish racing cyclist Knut Jensen at the Rome Olympics also shed a particularly unpleasant light on the dangers of doping. Over the last 25 years there have been seventy deaths in sport due with almost 100-per-cent certainty to drug-taking – not only in cycling, needless to say, but also in boxing and many other disciplines.

In 1961 a survey of professional football players in the Italian A league was conducted and revealed that seventeen



per cent of players had taken psychotonics and 9.5 per cent other drugs with the aim of playing better, with greater stamina and more successfully.

Sports associations have almost invariably shown little enthusiasm about doping checks. Time and time again the resort to pep pills of one kind and another has been played down by coaches, team doctors and officials as far as humanly possible.

The international cycling associations have waged a particularly successful struggle against really effective doping checks.

On one occasion two successful Italian racing cyclists were supposed to check in for a medical after passing the finishing tape but inexplicable disappeared for three days. Try as they might, the team officials were "unable" to locate them. One cyclist has even been known to hand over a urine sample after a race that turned out not to have been all of his own doing.

The doctors can be misled (or an attempt can be undertaken) by so simple a stratagem as a tiny dose of soda on one finger. The cyclists need only to urinate surreptitiously over this finger into the receptacle provided to deliver a chemical compound that is virtually impossible to analyse.

Then again, the winner can claim to have been so excited at passing the post first that he passed water immediately instead of waiting to deliver his sample for analysis.

This, however, has a boomerang effect. It both gives rise to suspicion and is totally ineffective. Drugs can be analysed in an athlete's urine for up to 48 hours after intake. The concentration is indeed greatest between one and three hours after intake.

It is less than a decade since the first successful attempt was made to arrive at a valid international definition of doping. A commission was set up under the aegis of the Council of Europe in 1963 and subdivided the range of drugs coming into question into four categories that to all intents and purposes still hold good at Munich.

According to the definition doping preparations can be distinguished as follows:

1. Narcotics such as morphine and heroin.
2. Pep pills such as benzedrine.
3. Alkaloids such as ephedrine.
4. Analeptics, which combat overtiredness.

Classified drugs are itemised in a list specially prepared for the Munich Olympics and supplied to every sports association, every coach and every participant. No one can claim not to have known.

The Munich commission has also reserved the right to keep the list of psychomotoric substances open until the last minute in order to be able to ban late-comers to the pharmacopoeia.

Entire scientific academies of countries whose athletes have been penalised for doping offences have been known to express doubts about the accuracy of the checks made by sports doctors and analysts. This being the case, the Munich team are taking every care to be systematic.

Participants are given to understand what is expected of them immediately on passing the finishing post. He is shown a green card from which he has to tear off a control slip.

Each participant may be subjected to a doping check. The first six undoubtedly will. Fifty cubic centimetres of urine are directed into two bottles that are then specially sealed and provided with a code number.

A neutral doctor, a team official and a representative of the international association are in attendance in each and every instance.

Analysis is conducted by means of two methods by separate teams of chemical analysts. The whole business might appear to be rather complicated but it would appear to be the only way of ensuring that doping checks are accepted as bona fide by all concerned. The whole operation, as has already been said, is costing two million Marks.

Even alcohol is included among the drugs prohibited. Marksmen, for instance, are known to favour a drop of the hard stuff to relieve their nerves and aid relaxation for the tenth of a second during which they press the trigger.

Alcohol may not boost muscle power but it can, over a short period of time, improve the coordination of muscle groups and responses to outside signals.

The legal Olympic limit as far as alcohol is concerned is forty milligrammes. This corresponds to a quarter litre of wine or two whiskies, depending on the individual's weight and a number of other factors.

The legendary pint of beer Dawn Frazer of Australia, the 100 metres crawl world record-holder, used to drink before a race cannot have amounted to more than 25 milligrammes, her weight being 72kg or 158lbs.

Anabolics, or body-builders, a category of preparations to which virtually all top-flight athletes nowadays resort, are not covered by doping regulations. There are some thirty drugs of this kind and their make-up is similar to that of the male sexual hormones.

The body-building effect which is useful enough when the patient is in a state of extreme exhaustion also involves an inherent androgenous factor.

This is not to say that female athletes end up with beards and flat chests but the hormone effect does tend to have repercussions of this kind.

What is more, there is no offsetting this effect. Interrupted periods are considered to be the rule rather than the exception among female athletes nowadays. It is hard to say what effect they have on a woman's psychological make-up.

Chemical analysis cannot assess the effect of hypnosis either. A number of top-flight swimmers are reputed to have been hypnotised at the Melbourne Olympics, if this is the right word. It was suggested to their subconscious that as soon as they entered the water a shark would be after them.

One may well argue that hypnotic influences of this kind, inducing a subconscious fear of being eaten alive by a shark unless the swimmer is fast enough, are a pretty mean trick to play on a grown human being but is this going to stop anyone from resorting to stratagems of this kind when Olympic medals are at stake?

The individual's freedom of decision, the personal resolve to compete and give of one's best, is dependent on any number of psychic factors – far more so than an outsider might suppose, which is why many teams will have their own psychologists with them.

Professor Prokop has what he considers to be a classic example of how slight the effect of drugs on an athlete need be and how great the influence of psychological factors can be in comparison.

He conducted a performance test on 200 top-flight Austrian athletes. They were first given a preparation that was in fact a placebo and had no effect whatsoever on their physical capabilities. They were, however, told in strict confidence that it was a staggeringly effective new drug from the United States that the doctors wanted to try out. In 73 per cent of the cases tested significant improvements in performance were the result.

In a second test undertaken not long afterwards the athletes were given a dose of a bona fide drug on the classified list but were told that it was probably not much use. Only five per cent of the athletes tested improved on their usual performances.

This is the level at which day-to-day form must be considered. It is not merely a matter of muscle power but of how the athlete happens to feel on the day (and some of them are so sensitive that their performance can be affected by someone on the sideline laughing or cat-calling).

Last but not least there is the concept of paradoping. This means giving an athlete a secret dose of drugs so that he is proven to have taken drugs without having had the least intention or suspicion of so doing. Psychological warfare is another variant of this phenomenon.

One loophole remains in the Olympic doping check system. No dope checks are to be made on horses, a sideline in which doping has been customary for centuries.

Richard von Frankenberg

(Deutsche Zeitung, 9 June 1972)